FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-138
Wednesday
21 July 1993

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-138 CONTENTS *21 July 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

- ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Jul ... 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Afghan Attack on Tajik Border Detailed *[Moscow TV]* ... 2
  - Force May Be Used To Protect Guards *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 2
  - Ministry Organizing Settlement Talks *[Moscow Radio]* ... 2
  - Security Officials Hold Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 2
  - Barannikov Terms Attack 'Terrorist Action' *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jul]* ... 3
  - No Increase in Military Presence *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Jul]* ... 3
  - 'Another Afghanistan' Warned *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* ... 4
- Debt Repayments by Tajikistan Postponed Until 2000 *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 4
- Ukraine Protests to UN About Parliament's Claim to Sevastapol ... 5
  - West 'Unlikely' To Back Call for Session *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jul]* ... 5
  - Foreign Ministry Statement Circulated at UN *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
  - UN Rejects Claim *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
- Yeltsin, Kravchuk Agree To Discuss Sevastopol *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 6
- Travkin Condemns Yeltsin's Position on Sevastopol *[ROSSIYA 21-27 Jul]* ... 6
- Ukrainian Citizenship Rules Seen as Discrminatory *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jul]* ... 6
- Russian-Estonian Treaty on Repatriation Initialed *[Moscow Radio]* ... 6
- Khasbulatov Terms India Missile Decision 'Disgrace' *[Radio Rossii]* ... 7
  - Foreign Ministry Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 7
  - Moscow 'Backed Down' on Deal *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Jul]* ... 7
  - Moscow Should Be 'Satisfied' With Agreement *[Moscow Radio]* ... 8
- 'Breakthrough' at U.S. Space Talks Viewed *[Moscow International]* ... 9
- Churkin's 'Vigorous Diplomacy' in Yugoslavia Reported *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jul]* ... 9
  - Sees Improvement in Serb-Croat Ties *[Moscow TV]* ... 10
- Chernomyrdin on Problems in Germany Visit *[Moscow TV]* ... 11
- Kokoshin Discusses Military Cooperation With Germany *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 12
- Reports on New Ambassador to Japan 'Far From Reality' *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 12
- Border Patrol Stops Japanese Fishing Boat Near Kurils *[Vladivostok Radio]* ... 13
- Confidence Building on Chinese Border Under Way *[PRAVDA 17 Jul]* ... 13
- Shakhray Discusses Nationalities Policy in China *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jul]* ... 14
- Moscow Terminates USSR-DPRK Timber Arrangement *[Vladivostok Radio]* ... 15
- Foreign Minister Kozyrev Departs for Malaysia *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 15
- Changing Pattern of Arms Exports Viewed *[Moscow TV]* ... 15

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

- Press Minister Criticizes Mass Media Law Amendments *[Radio Rossii]* ... 16
  - Media Chiefs Criticize Amendments *[PRAVDA 20 Jul]* ... 16
  - Further on Amendments *[PRAVDA 20 Jul]* ... 17
- Rutskoy's 'Campaign' Seen Mistimed, Ineffective *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Jul]* ... 17
- 'Democratic Organizations' Back Conference Draft *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 17 Jul]* ... 18
- Socialists Vow Not To Sign Draft Constitution *[KURANTY 21 Jul]* ... 18
- Problems of Draft Constitution's Adoption Pondered *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Jul]* ... 19
- Democratic Reform Movement Welcomes Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 19
- Idea of Creating 'Presidential Party' Scorned *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* ... 19

Baburin Heads Russian Statehood Protection Fund *[SEGODNYA 20 Jul]* 20
Yerin's Comments on Crime Situation Viewed *[Russian TV]* 20

Economic Issues

Chubays Warns Parliament Not To 'Hamper' Privatization *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Privatization Committee Seeks Support From Investment Funds *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 Jul]* 21
Vice Premier Fedorov on Economic Situation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 22
Conference Discusses Fuel Payment Problems *[Russian TV]* 25
    Officials Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Natural Gas Prices Raised; Excise Duty Levied *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 26
Aide Cites Figures on Labor Migration *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 26
Jun Consumer Price Index at 344 Percent of Dec *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 Jul]* 26
Official Criticizes 'Industrial Groups' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jul]* 26

Military Affairs

Indexing Delays Add to Defense Ministry Debt Problem *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jul]* 28
Cash Problems Cause 'Serious Discontent' in Military *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Jul]* ... 28
Spokesman Urges Crackdown on Draft Deferrals *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jul]* 28
Military 'Trying To Hamstring' Nuclear Inspectorate *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jul]* 29

Supreme Soviet

Request To Suspend Sevastopol Resolution Rejected *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
    Committee To Analyze UN Debate *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Khasbulatov Concerned Over Ingush-Ossetian Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Privatization Duty Taken From Chubays Committee *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Quorum Requirement Reduced to 50 Percent *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Deputy Discusses Troop Withdrawal From Tajikistan *[Moscow Radio]* 33
Law on Precious Metals, Stones Passed *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Deputies 'Vexed' Over Mine Support Fund, Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Jul]* 33
Parliament Approves Housing Program for Servicemen *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Parliament Factions Hold Joint Press Conference *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* 34

Regional Affairs

Atomic Energy Commission Investigates Chelyabinsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
    'Evasive Answers' Criticized *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jul]* 35
    Leak 'Localized,' 'No Threat' *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Rutskoy Meets With Deputies in Khabarovsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Far East Leaders Discuss Establishing Republics *[Russian TV]* 36
Rostov Oblast Head on Opposition to Sovereignization *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 37
North Ossetian Leaders Discuss Situation in Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Leningrad Oblast Leaders Demand Economic Aid *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 38
Alleged Western 'Spy' Arrested in Nizhniy Novgorod *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Jul]* 38

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Efforts To Repeal Russian Resolution on Sevastopol Viewed *[Kiev International]* 39
    Delegation Discusses Issue With UNSC *[Kiev International]* 39
    Germany Regrets Russian Claim *[Kiev International]* 39
    Groups Oppose 'Anti-Ukrainian' Actions *[UNIAN]* 39
Columnist Comments on Health of Russian Sailors *[UKRAYINSKI OBRIYI Jun]* 40
Italy Helps Republic Produce Currency *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Kiev To Host East Europe Economic Body *[Kiev International]* 40

National Affairs

Official Confirms Missiles Off Alert for Maintenance *[UNIAR]* 40
Kuchma Adviser Calls For No Confidence in Parliament *[UNIAN]* 40
Supreme Council Examines Referendum Possibilities *[UNIAR]* 41
    Parties Present Positions on Referendum *[KYYIVSKA PRAVDA 15 Jul]* 41
Socialist Party Calls For Fight Against Corruption *[KHRESHCHATYK 15 Jul]* 42
Naval Commander Views Tasks, Future of Navy *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 16 Jul]* 42
Lugansk 'State of Emergency' in Oil Sphere *[UNIAN]* 43
Company Utilizes Methane as Automobile Fuel *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 17 Jul]* 43
Correction to Kuchma Appeal to Agricultural Workers 43

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich's U.S. Visit Begins; Agenda Detailed *[Minsk Radio]* 44
Top Defense, Legal Officials Examine Pilfering in Military *[VECHERNIY MINSK 13 Jul]* 44
Opposition Leader Criticizes Shushkevich's Referendum Strategy *[CHYRVONAYA ZMENA 13 Jul]* 44
Cause of Intelligence Chief's Death Debated *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 17 Jul]* 45
PRC Military Delegation Arrives for Talks *[Minsk Radio]* 45
Slovene Delegation Arrives for Trade Talks *[Minsk Radio]* 45

Moldova

Snegur Appeals for Accelerated Economic Reforms *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jul]* 46
    Views Economic Decline, Foreign Ties *[BASAPRESS]* 46
Snegur's Visit to Romania Detailed *[BASAPRESS]* 46
Details on Rockets Detected at Ungheni Border Point *[BASAPRESS]* 47
NATO Delegation Head Discusses Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 47

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Government 'Ready' To Transfer Nuclear Technology to India *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Nazarbayev Departure for Bangkok Reported *[Almaty Radio]* 48
    Seeks Economic Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
    Stresses Importance of Asian Ties *[Almaty TV]* 48
Delegation Signs Transport Memorandum With Turkey *[KAZTAG]* 49
Cabinet Examines 'Negative Trends' in Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Educational Complex Established for Space Research *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Tajikistan

Border Situation, International Aid Viewed 49
    Rakhmanov Appeals For End to Attacks *[Dushanbe Radio]* 49
    Asks Media To Combat Misinformation *[Dushanbe Radio]* 50
    Prime Minister on Strengthening Border *[Moscow TV]* 51
    Foreign Minister Seeks Help *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Russian Security Minister Calls For Tajik Reinforcements *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
    Denies Russian Troop Build-Up *[Moscow TV]* 52
Afghanistan Ready for 'Trilateral Peace Talks' *[Russian TV]* 52
Tajik, Afghan 'Militants' Launch Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Fight for Gorno-Badakhshan Seen 'Inevitable' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Jul]* 53
Opposition Leader Sends Letter to Yeltsin 25 May *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 53

Turkmenistan

Agreement Reached With Afghanistan on Border Stability *[ITAR-TASS]* 54

Ashgabat Prepares for Caspian Basin Summit *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jul]* 55

Uzbekistan

President Defends Path to 'State Capitalism' *[SEGODNYA 20 Jul]* 55
Government To Free Some Food Prices *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 56

CAUCASUS

Armenia

'Hard Battles' After Azerbaijanis Stage Offensive *[SNARK]* 57
Premier, High-Ranking Officials Visit Karabakh *[Yerevan International]* 57
Government Backs UN Resolution, CSCE Initiative *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Deputy Minister Meets With New Greek Ambassador *[Yerevan International]* 57

Azerbaijan

Further on Aliyev's Meeting With Kazimirov *[Baku Radio]* 57
Kazimirov: Russia's Karabakh Stance 'Unchanged' *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
    Further Kazimirov Comment *[AZERTAC]* 58
Armenian Infantry Reported To Violate Border *[AZERTAC]* 59
    Armenia Denies Report *[Radio Rossii]* 59
Attempt To Kill Aliyev 15 Jul Reported *[Istanbul HURRIYET 17 Jul]* 59
Prime Minister Guseynov Interviewed on Coup *[RESPUBLIKA 7 Jul]* 59

Georgia

Defense Minister Discusses Abkhazia With Yeltsin Envoy *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 60
    Moscow Role Viewed *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Abkhaz Leader Calls For Russian Pressure on Georgia *[Russian TV]* 61
    Says Peace Depends on Georgia *[Moscow TV]* 61
    Calls Shevardnadze's Peace Plan 'Farce' *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
UN Technical Delegation Begins Work in Tbilisi *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Sukhumi Residents Appeal to Shevardnadze, Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Shevardnadze Arrives in Batumi, Discusses Black Sea Issues *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 62
    Meets Local Leaders *[Tbilisi Radio]* 63
    Meets Possible New Prime Minister *[Moscow Radio]* 63
Ukraine Fighters Arrive in Georgia *[Moscow TV]* 63
Additions Made To Criminal Code on Genocide, Draft Evasion *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 15 Jul]* 64

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Narva, Sillamae Referenda Results Underline Need for Dialogue *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jul]* 65
    'Irregularities' in Narva Poll *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 66
    Sillamae Results Announced *[Tallinn Radio]* 66
    Moscow Embassy Terms Referenda 'Illegal' *[Tallinn Radio]* 66
    Laar Downplays Narva Referendum *[Tallinn Radio]* 66
    Justice Chancellor Comments *[BNS]* 67
Commission Head: Riigikogu Informed of Israel Arms Purchase *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 67

Latvia

Prime Minister-Designate Announces Cabinet *[Riga Radio]* 67
Defense Minister on Performance of Ministry *[LETA]* 68

Lithuania

Former Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Recall *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 1 Jul]* 68
Brazauskas Pressured To Toughen Russia Policy *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Jul]* 68
Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkey *[Vilnius International]* 69
Seimas Chairman on Legislative Session Accomplishments *[BNS]* 69
Landsbergis Condemns Controls on Opposition in Mass Media *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 3 Jul]* 70
Homeland Union Discusses Situation, Policy With Newspaper *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 30 Jun]* 71
Statistics Show Decline in Economic Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
National Bank To Maintain 'Strict Controls' on Money *[BNS]* 71

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Jul

LD2107052293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0433 GMT 21 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—Russian newspapers continue to highlight the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and comments on the recent attack on the border picket of the Moskovskiy detachment of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA points out that the incident is "the beginning of a large-scale guerrilla war which the opposition has declared on the government in Dushanbe. There is an increasing body of data that the Islamists, upon getting the backing of Afghanistan's official circles, continue their attacks".

Provocations are continued in the border sections guarded by the Panj and Moskovskiy border detachments, but more effective measures are now being take against attackers, the newspaper notes.

The most complex situtation is taking shape in Gorno-Badakhshan. Over there, armed opposition groups that fled valleys during the civil war have now taken refuge behind inaccessible mountain passes. Opposite the regional centre of Khorog, preparations are under way in the Afghan city of Faizabad for yet another attack. There is every indication that main fighting will take place precisely in that area, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA concludes.

A seizure of Gorno-Badakhshan will enable the opposition to take a strategically important point and continue the war against the legitimate Cabinet of Ministers.

"Russia will not bring large military forces to Tajikistan" is the headline under which NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) frontpages an account of a briefing held at the public relations centre of the Russian Ministry of Security on Tuesday.

Speakers at the briefing pointed out that Russian border guards should remain in Tajikistan, because "Russia may not give up implementing the treaty of friendship and mutual assistance which it signed with Tajikistan". Speakers described the July 13 events on the border as an act of international terrorism.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a survey, prepared by Aleksey Malashenko, a staff member of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Oriental Studies, of some causes of the current situation in Tajikistan itself. His opinion is that, beginning from the autumn of 1992 "Moscow decided to cease trying to find out which kind of various political forces operate in Tajikistan—whether they are democrats, fundamentalists or advocates of the recreation of the Soviet Union".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, referring to the briefing at the Russian Security Minsitry, quotes Lieutenant General Vladimir Bondarenko, chief of staff of the Russian security minister, that the border troops of Russia reserve the right to take all measures at their disposal, including preventive ones. By that he means "the delivery of strikes against revealed concentrations of militant groups, including those on the territory of Afghanistan—without crossing the border so far, though". The newspaper explains.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs the text of a decree issued by the Russian president awarding the title of hero of the Russian Federation to some servicemen of border troops who took part in repulsing the attack on the border picket on July 13.

PRAVDA offers a different comment on the events on the Tajik- Afghan border. The writer of an article to this effect published in the newspaper today believes that the events are closely associated with the break-up of the Soviet Union. "The leaders of the three Slavic states conducted themselves in Belovezhskaya Pushcha like Chekhov's 'malefactor' unaware of what they were doing".

"The bloody events in Tajikistan are only one of illustrations of the outcome of the careless loosening of all bolts that held the great power intact", the writer of the article adds.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI draws attention to the fact that the Russian budget deficit may mount up to 25,000,000 million roubles, because the country's parliament, by making amendments to the budget plan, augments the expenditure on state programmes and investments up to 9,100,000 million roubles, while defence spending grows up to 8,000,000 million roubles.

As a result, the earlier planned deficit has considerably grown, dealing a blow to the government's anti-crisis programme. The huge budget deficit will bring about a new spiral of inflation and lead to a further decline in the living standards of the people in russia, the newspaper's correspondent concludes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA frontpages an item on the privatisaiton process in Russia. Having recalled that on Tuesday the Russian parliament suspended the presidential decree "on state guarantees of the right of the citizens of Russia to participate in privatisation" as running counter to the constitution and laws, the newspaper reports that a half of 550 cheque investment funds, set in Russia by now, will not be able to stand competition in the near future. This is the opinion of Vladimir Alekseyev, director of the League for the Promotion of Investment Funds.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reverts to the subject of whether the nuclear-powered submarine Komsomolets, which sank in the Norwegian Sea several years ago, should or should not be surfaced.

The newspaper reports that a comprehensive expedition is being prepared in St. Petersburg. The point is that the ecological situation in the area of the sunken submarine gives rise to concern in many countries, because the first compartment of the submarine contains nuclear-tipped torpedoes, and seawater erodes their cases. By means of special equipment, scientists intend to survey the submarine hull in detail.

Afghan Attack on Tajik Border Detailed

PM2007113193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By A. Ostrovskiy and A. Khodzhayev; from the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpt] [Ostrovskiy] At 0400 on 13 July, a heavily armed group of opposition members and Afghan servicemen—354 men in all—crossed the border and launched an attack on the location of the 12th Border Post of Russian Border Troops in Tajikistan. At the moment of the attack, there were 47 men at the post. The armed invasion of a sovereign state's territory—which is what this was—was carefully planned, including from the point of view of intelligence work. The opening minutes of the attack saw the destruction of an ammunitions depot, communications facilities, and the power supply. The post came under intensive mortar attack from four sides and was showered with grenades. The border guards took up the fight, heroically resisting attack after attack until help arrived. Having suffered heavy losses, the opponent retreated back across the border. The border post no longer exists as such—there are just ruins. The undeclared war claimed the lives of 24 soldiers and more than 20 people were wour[illegible] some seriously. They were not only Russians—sol[illegible] rom 14 different nationalities served at the 12th border post. They died heroes. [passage omitted]

Force May Be Used To Protect Guards

LD2007113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Russia warned Tajik opposition militants and their Afghan allies that it will resort to force to prevent aggressive actions against Tajikistan and may deliver strikes on Tajik opposition forces based in Afghanistan in case they pose a threat to Russian border guards in the Central Asian republic.

"Frontier units of the Russian Security Ministry will use all the forces and combat capabilities at their disposal not only to cut short, but also to avert aggressive actions on the territory adjoining to Tajikistan and the CIS", head of the Security Ministry administration Vladimir Bondarenko told a press conference on Tuesday. He added that attacks on borders protected by Russian frontier troops will be viewed as a threat to the Russian national security. The ministry denounced the attack the Russian 12th border post on July 13 which took a death toll of 22 Russian border guards and three army soldiers.

Bondarenko stressed that in Tajikistan and other CIS states Russian troops are protecting the national interests of the country, the life and dignity of Russians living in places of interethnic, political and other conflicts.

"With this in view the frontier troops and other forces of the Security Ministry retain the right of using all means, including preventive ones, to ensure the state security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Russia, the peaceful life of Russian citizens".

He added that responsibility for possible consequences connected with the fulfilment by Russian border guards of their duties will be born "by those forces who stand behind the armed provocations similar to that which was staged at the 12th border post".

Ministry Organizing Settlement Talks

LD2007135693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry is currently working on organizing a meeting in Dushanbe of the heads of governments of Russia, the Central Asian countries, and Afghanistan to discuss ways of settling the crisis situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. This was announced to journalists by Boris Kutovskiy, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, at today's briefing in Moscow. He noted that Russia would try to get UN forces sent to the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This news came to us from RIA.

[illegible]curity Officials Hold Talks

LD20071[illegible] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—Strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border was discussed today at a meeting between the leaders of Tajikistan and Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the Russian Federation border troops, who are in the republic. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the public relations center of the Russian Security Ministry that Barannikov "is insisting on stepping up the process of bringing the group of Russian border troops up to strength with conscripts from Tajikistan, so that the border posts are of a mixed nature." At the same time, in the view of the Russian side, the process of forming Tajikistan's own border structures has to be speeded up as much as possible.

Barannikov stressed again at the meeting with the Tajik leaders that "the reliable protection of the external borders of the former USSR at the present stage meets the overall interests of the countries of the Commonwealth and the national interests of Russia". He noted that the Russian-speaking population (more than 200,000) living on the republic's territory is in the immediate sphere of Russian national interests. "The security of our fellow countrymen and their protection have to be absolutely guaranteed," the minister stressed.

Following the meeting, Barannikov and Shlyakhtin, together with Saidamir Zuhurov, chairman of the Tajik Committee for National Security and Defense Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov, visited the section of the

Moskovskiy border detachment, where they held an operational conference, the Russian Security Ministry public relations center reported. The same day the Russian security minister visited a hospital and spoke to troops who were wounded during the border clashes.

Barannikov Terms Attack 'Terrorist Action'

PM2007160593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Neither Moscow Nor Kabul Accept Responsibility for Bloodshed"]

[Text] Yesterday we reported the Russian Defense Ministry's official viewpoint on the alleged bombing of villages in Afghanistan. Today we phoned the military department's press service again and asked the same question: Have there been artillery and air strikes against villages in Afghanistan?

The answer was the same as before: Russian Armed Forces have not shelled Afghanistan's territory.

The border forces command also denied its involvement in the shelling, which it called a foreign mass media fabrication. Furthermore, Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, who went to Dushanbe after Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, warned the "mass media against putting dubious interpretations on measures which are the consequence of Russian military minister Pavel Grachev's trip to Tajikistan," according to INTERFAX

Talking with journalists after arriving in Dushanbe, Barannikov stressed that some of the mass media "have implied that strikes are going to be made against Kabul." "There is no question of any global military buildup on Tajikistan's territory," the Russian minister stated.

He characterized the 13 July tragedy on the Tajik-Afghan border as an "international terrorist action" and said that in connection with the Russian president's decision tighter protection of the Tajik-Afghan border will be ensured.

In V. Barannikov's words, the aim of his visit to Tajikistan is to ensure not only the protection of the state border but also the protection of the Russian-speaking population and the civilian population in general. "Russia's national interests," he stated, "do not end at the border. Our fellow countrymen who have remained on the territory of the republics of the former Union and the protection of their honor, dignity, and finally their life—that is the purpose of my visit."

As V. Barannikov noted, "we cannot allow bandits to roam along the state border." The Russian Security Minister said that it is planned to increase the numerical strength of the Russian border troops. In this regard he especially stressed that the Russian border troops on the Tajik-Afghan section of the border will be increased solely in accordance with the strength on record [v sootvetsvii so spisochnym sostavom].

It has become known that on Monday Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on the decoration of a large group of border troops "for courage and heroism in the execution of their military duty"—the protection of border post 12 on the Tajik-Afghan border. The title of Hero of the Russian Federation and the "Gold Star" medal, a mark of special distinction, have been awarded to six servicemen, four of them posthumously.

Among the recipients of the order "For personal courage" is Ivan Mayborod, chief of border post 12, who died in action.

Many other servicemen and border troops have been given awards.

According to an INTERFAX report, seven soldiers and two officers of the Tajik Defense Ministry were killed and two wounded during an exchange of fire on Sunday between government troops and an antigovernment armed grouping in the republic's Tavildarinskiy Rayon. INTERFAX was told this by the Tajikistan Defense Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov. The minister asserted that the enemy lost at least 100 men.

No Increase in Military Presence

MK2107094093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 1

[Nikolay Ulyanov report: "Russia Will Not Bring Large Military Units Into Tajikistan. 5,000 Gunmen Ready To Attack, Russian Security Ministry Officials Believe"]

[Text] A briefing "Regarding Events on the Tajik-Afghan Border" was held at the Russian Security Ministry public relations center yesterday. It was attended by Lieutenant General Vladimir Bondarenko; Major General Aleksandr Tymko, chief of the Russian security minister's administration; the chief of staff of the border troops; and also Vladimir Tomarovskiy, deputy chief of the Russian Security Ministry's public relations center.

Regarding the controversial issue of the need for a Russian military presence on the borders of another state, the speakers were unanimous in saying that Russian border troops should stay in Tajikistan, because Russia cannot back down on its obligations under the treaty on friendship and mutual assistance it signed with Tajikistan. According to the speakers, last year alone 1,045 violators were detained by the border troops at this sector of the former USSR border.

The 13 July events were described by senior officers speaking at the briefing as an act of international terrorism. In Aleksandr Tymko's view, carrying out combat operations is the task of the army and not of the border troops. No border post can fight longer than 24 hours before it is completely destroyed. It was said at the briefing that since the beginning of the year 33 border troops servicemen, including three officers, have been killed on the Tajik-Afghan border.

It was not by chance that border post No. 12 was chosen as a target for attack. Not only does it protect a sector of the border, it also covers a number of strategically important roads leading into Tajikistan's heartland. According to reports made public by Vladimir Bondarenko, Kabul knew about the upcoming assault. This was also confirmed by the fact that, according to information available to the Russian Security Ministry, the commander of the 55th Infantry Division of Afghanistan was among the organizers of the attack. At present, Mr. Bondarenko said, around 5,000 gunmen are being trained for infiltration into Tajikistan. In the opinion of the senior military officials who addressed the briefing, the attack on the border post was planned most carefully and was aimed at giving a boost to the idea, held by some in Russian society, of withdrawing border troop units from the Tajik-Afghan border.

Yesterday, Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov visited the Tajik-Afghan border. He said that "any global buildup of Russia's military presence on the territory of Tajikistan is out of the question."

'Another Afghanistan' Warned

MK2007102693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Igor Rotar report under the "Geopolitics" rubric: "Russian Policy vis-a-vis Tajikistan Is Either Shortsighted or Unrealistic; to All Appearances, This Policy Is Being Made so far by the Military, While the State's Leaders Are Trying To Evade the Decisionmaking Responsibility or Just Swimming With the Tide"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Moscow has unequivocally spoken in favor of a forcible solution to the Tajikistan problem. Interestingly, both the legislative and executive branches have shown unanimity on the matter. The most outspoken of all has been Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who stated that in the event of a fresh attack from the Afghan side of the river, the aggressor would be inflicted "such a defeat that the next time it would not be able to lift its hand against the people of Russia." [passage omitted]

It is, however, hardly appropriate today even to propose that Moscow would bring itself to repeat the Afghan adventure. If Russia is not going to violate the state border of the former Soviet Union, it remains unclear in which way Pavel Grachev intends to punish the Tajik opposition based on the territory of a neighboring Islamic state. The press center of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan repeatedly advised that Russia is simply not in a position to "close off" the border completely. This means that groups of well-armed Tajik guerrillas would cross over from Afghanistan, and cross back having fulfilled their missions. [passage omitted]

Interestingly, whereas the latest developments along the Tajik-Afghan border have drawn a loud response in Russia, the flippant West continues, to all appearances, to underrate the developments in Tajikistan. For example, Yevgeniy Kiselev, anchor of one of the most popular television programs, began his weekly events roundup by analyzing the situation in Tajikistan which, admittedly, mainly consisted of an unattributed rendition of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stories. The weekly BBC television program made no mention of the topic at all. [passage omitted]

According to members of the Russian military delegation at the meeting with Tajikistan leaders, intelligence data speak of the fact that the attack on the Russian border guards was staged in order to intimidate Moscow and make it withdraw its troops from Tajikistan. Despite the bellicose determination of Russia's top-echelon leaders, should similar actions be repeated, it would be far from simple to make the conscripts and officers of the army of a former empire to stay in Tajikistan: Unwillingness to die in someone else's war backed by powerful demonstrations of protest against "another Afghanistan" may trigger mass desertions. As for recruitment of servicemen for Tajikistan solely on a contractual basis, this is problematic enough owing to those same financial difficulties, and only means a postponement of a fundamental solution to the problem.

Debt Repayments by Tajikistan Postponed Until 2000

LD2007125793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1033 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Russia decided to postpone the repayment of debts by Tajikistan until the year 2000 and granted a new 60-billion rouble credit to the Central Asian Republic for purchases of Russian goods in 1993.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin and Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov signed three agreements on Tuesday aimed to normalise financial relations between the two former Soviet Republics.

The first document transfers the 49-billion rouble debt of Tajikistan for technical credits in 1992 and in the first half of 1993 into a state credit of the Russian Government. The debt is to be repaid before October 1, 2000 and the payments will begin in 1996. The second document concerns the new Russian state credit, while the third one dwells on mutual obligations in using the Russian rouble as the currency of Tajikistan.

Commenting on the agreements, Shokhin welcomed the Tajik decision to remain in the rouble zone. Abdullodzhanov confirmed that his country will keep the rouble as the national currency.

Ukraine Protests to UN About Parliament's Claim to Sevastopol

West 'Unlikely' To Back Call for Session

PM2007151193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Maksim Yusin report: "Ukraine Demands Urgent Convening of UN Security Council on Sevastopol"]

[Text] Ukraine has demanded the urgent convening of the UN Security Council to examine the situation concerning Sevastopol following the Russian parliament's decision to place the city under Moscow's jurisdiction.

In a letter addressed to the Security Council chairman, a function performed this month by the British representative, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko urged the United Nations "to use all its influence to have this unlawful decision rescinded," a decision which constitutes "a glaring violation of the norms of international law and an encroachment on Ukraine's territorial integrity."

So far Moscow has not reacted officially to the Ukrainian demarche. A high-ranking staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry who wished to remain anonymous has expressed doubt that the Security Council will examine this question. "Russia's foreign policy is determined by the president, whose position regarding Sevastopol is well known," he said. "The Russian leadership has not made any territorial claims on Ukraine. Consequently Kiev has no grounds for appealing to the United Nations."

By all accounts, this opinion is shared by the majority of Western capitals. In the words of a diplomat representing one of the "great powers"—the permanent members of the Security Council—in Moscow, it is unlikely that the West will support Ukraine's request. "We do not want to spoil relations with the Russian Government, especially in the present instance when President Yeltsin and the Foreign Ministry have distanced themselves from the Supreme Soviet's position," he said.

Foreign Ministry Statement Circulated at UN

LD2007210993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1938 GMT 20 Jul 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 20 Jul—Today the folllowing statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation was circulated at UN headquarters, as an official document of the Security Council, in connection with the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On the status of the city of Sevastopol":

The decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of 9 July 1993 "On the status of the city of Sevastopol" is at variance with the stated position of the president and government of the Russian Federation in implementing the interests of Russia regarding the issues of the Black Sea Fleet and the basing of the Russian Federation Navy on the territory of Ukraine, in Crimea, and Sevastopol.

Of an emotional and declaratory nature, this action by no means points to the prospects for real solutions; it only makes an already difficult quest for them even more complicated.

Without underestimating the negative consequences of the administrative decisions of the leadership of the former USSR with regard to territorial issues, it must be stressed yet again that any problems, no matter how complicated, can only be resolved in the context of political dialogue, taking into account the opinions and interests of the different groups of the population, and strictly observing the treaties and agreements with the Ukrainian side and the principles of the CSCE and the United Nations.

UN Rejects Claim

LD2107082693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations July 21 TASS—The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday rejected the Russian parliament's claim to the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, saying it was incompatible with the charter of the United Nations.

The council issued a statement to this effect, read out by Council President David Hannay (Britain) at the council's meeting on Tuesday.

The statement said the council shared Ukraine's "deep concern" and condemned the Russian parliament's resolution "on the status of the city of Sevastopol" as "incompatible" with a treaty which the Russian Federation and Ukraine signed in Kiev on November 19, 1990, committing themselves to respect each other's territorial integrity.

The council said "the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation is incompatible with this commitment as well as with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and without effect."

The statement said the Council reaffirmed its commitment to the "territorial integrity" of the Ukraine and urged Moscow and Kiev to "take all steps to ensure the avoidance of tension."

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk told the council the parliamentary decision was an "aggressive political act against the Ukraine and void of any legal basis." He called it a "time bomb whose owner cannot imagine its full destructive force" and said that attempts had already been taken in the port city to enact the decision and these would lead to counter-measures by Ukraine "with unpredictable consequences that seriously threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

In response, Russia's Ambassador Yuliy Voronstov emphasised that any problems had to be solved in the "framework of political dialogue" and take into account "the views and interests of various groups of the population and with strict compliance of treaties and agreements with the Ukrainian side."

Mr Hannay said the statement adopted on Tuesday concerned only "the international implications of the (parliamentary) decree and the fact that it is contrary to international law and therefore without effect. It is not an attempt to get involved in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation."

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Agree To Discuss Sevastopol

LD2107084493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreed in a tele[illegible]onver[illegible]ion on Tuesday [20 July] to hold a new s[illegible]n the [illegible]ck Sea Fleet and its naval base of Sev[illegible]. The [illegible]me and venue of the meeting was not announced.

The press centre of the Russian Government said on Wednesday that the conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk focused on burning problems of Russian-Ukrainian relations and at easing tensions around the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol.

The presidents instructed their governments to work out proposals "envisaging constructive approaches to an accelerated solution of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet taking into account new developments", the press centre said.

Travkin Condemns Yeltsin's Position on Sevastopol

MK2107093093 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 30, 21-27 Jul 93 (signed to press 20 Jul) p 2

[Unattributed INFO-ROSSIYA—PARTINFORM report in "Parties and Movements" column: "Travkin Perplexed"]

[Text] Nikolay Travkin supports the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's decision on the city of Sevastopol. "The defense of Russia's national and state interests," he believes, "must be a priority line in the conduct of all bodies of state power in the Russian Federation." In connection with this he said he was perplexed by the position of the Russian president, who dissociated himself from the Supreme Soviet's decisions and even called them "despicable." Travkin stated that defense of the interests of one's country may not be despicable; what is despicable is to abandon one's duty to suit a transient political situation. He thinks that an alternative to the decision on the Sevastopol issue can be not war but a purely economic and political settlement of the problem—possibly via a special status for the city.

Ukrainian Citizenship Rules Seen as Discrminatory

PM2007131193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Milkus report: "Special 'Poltava' Residence Permit"]

[Text] Odessa— There are lines at Ukraine's savings banks. The compensation which the government generously allocated depositors—200 percent of the amount deposited but, admittedly, no more than 2,000 karbovanets—can be obtained until 1 August. That buys around 300g of "soggy" sausage. Not everyone can obtain what is due: The money will only be issued if your passport bears a stamp indicating Ukrainian citizenship.

But this now involves problems. Previously everyone living in the republic could have dropped into the passport [illegible]artment and gotten a stamp. Now that halcyon [illegible] is over. in order to become a Ukrainian citizen yo[illegible]e to present a document saying that you are abando[illegible]g another state's citizenship: There is no anticipation of dual citizenship at the moment. Then you have to prove that you, your parents or your grandparents came from Ukraine. And you also have to submit a questionnaire, information about your income and knowledge of Ukrainian, medical certificates, and 20,700 karbovanets.

If you do not have these documents, you have to live for five years without citizenship. But... under the new rules, if a female citizen of another state marries a Ukrainian citizen, she will not have to wait that long to automatically acquire her husband's citizenship. If a man marries a Ukrainian resident, on the other hand, he will have to suffer for five years. Discrimination or what?

Things are even trickier for those people who previously left Ukraine—servicemen working in the Far North and students who graduated from higher educational establishments outside Ukraine and are working there on assignment. They have to present documents attesting to their allegiance to Ukraine by 13 November, apply to the Russian Embassy in Kiev, and pay 20,000 karbovanets.

Russian-Estonian Treaty on Repatriation Initialed

LD2007213193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The treaty between Russia and Estonia on repatriation [vozvratnoye pereseleniye] has been initialled. It introduces the status of repatriate and sets the level of aid such a person should receive from both sides. In Estonia, people in this position will receive compensation for having sold their accommodation as well as benefits from the migration fund. The Russian side will assist [such people] in finding work and in providing land plots. In Estonia, 10 million kroon have been allocated to the migration fund.

Khasbulatov Terms India Missile Decision 'Disgrace'

LD2107102893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that Russia's nonfulfillment of agreements with India on the supply of technology for the production of cryogenic rocket engines will become a national disgrace. According to INTERFAX, he stated this at a plenary sitting of the Supreme Soviet chambers today. Ruslan Khasbulatov recalled that during official visits to India, the Russian president and he, himself, gave assurances that these agreements would be fulfilled. To remind you, at recent talks in Washington, a Russian delegation announced that the technology for producing cryogenic engines was not going to be passed to India.

Foreign Ministry Comments

LD2007133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Russia will not supply technologies for the production of rocket engines to India, but remains interested in further cooperation with it in peaceful space exploration, according to a spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"In line with the policy of the Russian Government aimed to avert the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery measures are being taken to improve the national system of control over the export of materials, equipment and technologies used to create missile equipment", Boris Kutovskiy told reporters on Tuesday.

"In these conditions certain types of cooperation with other countries become impossible", he said, adding that "the talk is about the transfer (to India) of Russian technologies connected with production of rocket engines".

In this connection "we have suspended the fulfilment of certain elements of the agreement" between the Russian Space Agency and the Indian Organisation of Space Research.

In Washington director general of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev said on Monday that Russia can ship to India ready-made engines, but the issue of transferring technologies needs further negotiations. Kutovskiy stressed that the Russian decision does not cancel the deal in general and "does not testify in any way to a decrease in our interest in further cooperation with India in peaceful space research".

He added that "measures to improve export control are adopted with consideration of our consultations with the USA, as well as with other countries".

The United States opposed the Russian-Indian space deal saying it violated the missile technology nonproliferation regime and threatening sanctions against the Russian Space Agency.

Dwelling on the results of the referendum on autonomy held in Russian-populated cities of Estonia - Narva and Sillamyae, the spokesman expressed hope that the Estonian leadership "will make the necessary conclusions itself" and will begin "a normal and constructive dialogue with the Russian-speaking population".

Moscow 'Backed Down' on Deal

PM2107091593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 7

[Manki Ponomarev report: "Moscow Yields to Unconcealed Pressure"]

[Text] This story began over two years ago when an accord was reached between Moscow and Delhi on the delivery on a commercial basis of cryogenic (oxyhydrogen) rocket engines for implementing the Indian space program.

The accord was mutually beneficial. For India it opened up the possibility of implementing its plans for the exploration of space. And for us it meant earning essential hard currency (around $200-250 million and, according to some press reports, even more than that) and ensuring work for enterprises badly affected by cutbacks in our space programs and the artificial difficulties created by the United States and other Western countries in the world space technology markets.

Washington sounded the alarm almost immediately. It accused Moscow of violating the regime governing the nonproliferation of rocket technologies even though by its discriminatory actions it actually hindered our affiliation to that regime. It reached the point where last year the United States announced the imposition of sanctions against Russia's Glavkosmos [Main Administration for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the National Economy and Scientific Research] and the Indian Space Research Organization.

Until recently, however, Russia had firmly rejected the U.S. claims which it saw as an attempt to ensure the U.S. corporations' monopoly position in the world space rocket market and because it did not want to undermine its traditional cooperation with such a major and influential state as India. Russian representatives, some of the highest rank, repeatedly stated in public that Moscow was absolutely determined to honor its obligations toward Delhi. Just last month the U.S. refusal to abandon its discriminatory claims against Russia and India led to the cancellation of the planned trip to

Washington by Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, aimed at signing an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of space research with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

Then everything changed. At talks in Washington which ended on 17 July, the Russian delegation headed by Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency, backed down, not on its own initiative, of course, but on direct orders issued at the highest level in Moscow. It agreed to freeze the transfer of technology and equipment to India until new talks on the fate of the old contract and pledged not to transfer rocket technology in the future. Despite the real threat of not only losing a contract worth hundreds of millions of dollars but also having to pay the Indian Government a penalty for breaking the contract, we "took note" that the Americans will pay us no compensation. At the same time Russia promised to begin observing the international regime monitoring the nonproliferation of rocket technology as of 1 November —on America's terms, of course.

What do we get in exchange? The United States is freezing (not revoking!) its earlier decision on sanctions against Glavkosmos and will not impose new sanctions as it had intended against a number of Russian enterprises and firms operating in the sphere of creating space equipment. An accord has been reached that an agreement will be signed in the near future on the development of Russian-U.S. cooperation in space. It is worth mentioning here that the United States is far more interested in such cooperation right now because it urgently needs our accumulated experience of long orbital flights and a number of the technical achievements of Russian specialists.

Thus Moscow has again backed down under unconcealed pressure from Washington. The old, much vaunted declarations have been forgotten and the charges against the Americans of pursuing a policy of "dual standards" toward us have been left in the air. Serious damage has been done to Russian-Indian relations. Some press organs, primarily American, are trying to aggravate that damage even further. That is why they are reporting that Moscow took seriously the warnings against cooperation with Delhi on space technologies on the grounds that this could lead to an intensification of India's military potential which would ultimately pose a considerable threat to Russia, too.

The official reaction from Delhi has been relatively mild so far. It has merely expressed regret at Russia's decision not to supply cryogenic engine technology in accordance with contracts signed previously. The public reaction is a different matter. The Indian press is full of protests at this infringement of the country's interests, estimates of what this will cost the implementation of the space program, which the country does not intend to abandon, and how much this will delay the achievement of the set goals, and expressions of doubt as to whether it is worth continuing to cooperate with Moscow in other spheres as well.

Incidentally, other countries may now think long and hard before agreeing to develop cooperation with Moscow. Supposing this incurs Washington's displeasure again and Russia goes back on its word again? What then? Will previously concluded agreements and contracts be ripped up? Is it worth concluding them in that case?

Yes, the latest surrender to pressure from Washington has really turned out badly for us.

Moscow Should Be 'Satisfied' With Agreement

LD1807131393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0735 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The talks between Russia and U.S. representatives on the nonproliferation of rocket technology have ended successfully in Washington. Our observer Viktor Levin comments on the results of these talks.

[Levin] The immediate reason for the Russian-American talks, which continued for several months, was the agreement on Russia supplying cryogenic rocket motors to India. The Americans declared that the Russian-Indian agreement infringed the international regime of controls over the nonproliferation of rocket technology and threatened Russia with sanctions if it did not abandon the deal with India. The Americans acted, regrettably, in their traditional rather high-handed way, thereby plainly aggravating the situation. Only a calm and balanced dialogue behind tightly closed doors indicated a way out.

Russia has agreed to begin complying, from 1 November this year, with the international regime of controls over the nonproliferation of rocket technology. Russia has not previously undertaken this commitment. In this respect the formulations given are clear-cut. Less clear is the issue regarding the deliveries of Russian cryogenic motors to India, which started everything off. The available information indicates that Russia will supply India with a certain number of motors, and they will be provided with technological documentation, but not the kind that will make it possible for India itself to make cryogenic motors.

In relation to its original stance of a total rejection of the Russian-Indian agreement, the United States made a compromise. I think this is based on the fact that the Russian delegation was able to convince the Americans that the supply of the motors does not infringe the international control regulations. The part of the Russian-Indian agreement at variance with the control regime will not be implemented.

Another thing is that it seems the Americans understood Russia's arguments regarding the economic side of the matter. Various sources estimate that the total amount involved in the Russian-Indian agreement is between

$200 million and $400 million. It is clear that accession to the international control regime will be a blow to Russia's treasury, and the Americans agreed during the negotiations to regard the agreement reached as the basis for the development of cooperation between Russia and the United States in space. This concerns carrying out joint projects; for instance, the possible involvement of Russia in the creation of an American orbiting station. Such cooperation promises a revenue of many billions, not just millions. Although I do not think that it will be easy to reach specific accords, since the American industrial corporations are scarcely eager to share their profits, consistency, plus the necessary firmness on Russia's part, will provide opportunities to give effect to truly cosmic plans.

From both the political and the economic viewpoint, I think Moscow and Washington can be satisfied. The Americans are already saying that Chernomyrdin will shortly be going to the United States and will be having talks with Vice President Gore on implementing an accord on space cooperation.

There is dissatisfaction in Delhi, and people there are fulminating and reproaching Russia for giving in to pressure from the transatlantic power. The communists are particularly bitter. There are many of them of various hues, but they are all unanimous about this.

In conclusion, let me approach the problem from a different angle and on the basis of the sacred principle of: Plato is my friend, but the truth is dearer to me. The Indians say that their program for the peaceful exploration of space is suffering from the incomplete implementation of the agreement with Russia. In exactly the same way they used to speak about the peaceful atom when they carried out nuclear explosions. Back in the time of the USSR, we nodded our heads, agreeing that they were peaceful explosions. How could it be otherwise, since India is our friend? Pakistan is much further from making nuclear weapons than India is, but how we criticized that country. Is it not time to abandon the double standards and base policy, not on liking, but on Russia's national interests? These interests unequivocally indicate that Russia, in the interests of its own security, should not and must not foster the spread of either nuclear or rocket technology.

'Breakthrough' at U.S. Space Talks Viewed

LD2007191193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Announcer-read Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Excerpts] At the latest talks in Washington the general director of the Russian Space Agency, the NASA leadership and administration representatives reached agreement on expanding cooperation in outer space.

The talks can be called a breakthrough in an important sphere of partnership between the two countries, not simply because the two sides agreed to tighten controls on the proliferation of rocket technology and to lift American sanctions against Russian space companies, sanctions imposed in connection with the Russian-Indian space deal. The two sides also worked out a package of documents on joint efforts to explore space. The documents will be discussed, finalized and signed during the visit of the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the United States later this month.

It must be said that the two countries are already closely cooperating in space exploration. [passage omitted]

The recent talks might elevate the interaction between the two countries to a new higher orbit, so to speak. The leaders of NASA and the Russian Space Agency agreed to study such projects as joint manned flights, the joint launching of an orbital station and joint programs involving a Shuttle and the Mir station. The sides agreed that probable projects will be examined by the end of August.

There is also every sign of a breakthrough in exchanges of high technology. The United States has permitted Russia to a tender for 12 space launchings and agreed to Russia's involvement in the construction of the orbital station Freedom. The use of Russian space achievements in the station should help save $2.5 billion.

These understandings between Moscow and Washington are not an isolated phenomenon, but an inseparable part of broad international cooperation in peaceful space exploration. In this sphere the efforts of every country are precious. No doubt both Russia and the United States are going to expand commercial relations with other countries.

Restrictions in the spreading of rocket technologies cannot stop such cooperation. For example, Russia intends to continue helping India with its program of peaceful space exploration. The Space Australia consortium is discussing plans of involving Russian equipment in launchings of satellites from an Australian cosmodrome. Moscow is ready for such commercial deals.

Churkin's 'Vigorous Diplomacy' in Yugoslavia Reported

PM2007203593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Andrey Baturin and Sergey Gryzunov of RIA NOVOSTI "specially for IZVESTIYA": "Vitaliy Churkin: As Long as War in Bosnia Continues, Russia Will Not Demand Lifting of Sanctions Against Belgrade"]

[Text] Belgrade—"Russia will raise the question of lifting sanctions against Yugoslavia in the UN Security Council only in the event that the three warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina—Serbs, Muslims, and Croats—agree on peace," Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian Federation president's special representative in Belgrade, stated at the end of his visit to the former Yugoslavia.

All the signs suggest that Russia's vigorous diplomacy aimed at finding a solution to the Yugoslav crisis have brought tangible results. The "Churkin plan," as the Croats have dubbed it, which provided for the holding of direct talks between Croatia and the "Republic of Serb Krajina" which is attempting to break away from it, has, it seems, begun to be implemented.

According to the testimony of the Russian diplomat himself, the talks in Knin, the capital of "Serb Krajina," were the most difficult stage of his visit. As a result the Krajina Serbs have agreed not to throw out of ccurt the possibility of examining a concept of sovereignty for the Republic of Serb Krajina which would not violate Croatia's territorial integrity.

Official Zagreb, for its part, says that it is prepared to grant Krajina "maximum autonomy." However, the realization of such an idea will confront many problems. Undoubtedly questions will arise about army service, a joint or autonomous monetary system, and the status of foreign missions. But this is for the future. The main thing is that today two peoples who are in a state of war have sat down at the negotiating table and decided, it would appear, to agree on the withdrawal of their armed forces from the disputed territories. In addition, representatives of the Republic of Serb Krajina—not without the participation of the Russian mediator—have agreed to meet the Croats again 1 August and begin a new round of talks on economic questions.

Churkin brought from Sarajevo, following a conversation with A. Izetbegovich, president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, the hope that his collocutor is ready to join talks with the Bosnian Serb and Croat leaderships. However, the Muslim leader makes his participation conditional on the Serbs' conduct around Sarajevo. Meanwhile, in the opinion of the command of the UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, this is only yet another stalling tactic on Izetbegovich's part.

Having gotten safely out of besieged Sarajevo, despite two artillery shells which exploded nearby just as his flight took off, Churkin continued the round of talks in Belgrade. After this he stated to journalists: The current moment in relations between Serbia and Croatia "can be called critical, and the settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia will depend on the normalization of these relations."

Churkin had a telephone conversation with the leader of the Bosnian Serbians, Radovan Karadzic. Moscow's mediator received assurances that the idea of uniting the Krajina and Bosnian Serbs into one state is not on the agenda. Karadzic also informed him that the Bosnian Serb Armed Forces had given their consent for the passage of a humanitarian aid convoy under the protection of a Ukrainian battalion into the region of the blockaded city of Gorazde.

However, it is the custom in the Balkans that words are often at odds with deeds. After Churkin's departure Karadzic announced the "unification of all Serbs" living outside Serbia into a single state virtually within the next 24 hours.'

It would appear that Vitaliy Churkin failed to persuade his Belgrade interlocutors—Serbian President S. Milosevic and Yugoslavian President Z. Lilic—to agree to extend the mandate of the CSCE mission in Kosovo, in which it is proposed to include Russian representatives also.

Sees Improvement in Serb-Croat Ties

LD2007220693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By correspondent Vladimir Solovyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The present moment could be described as a watershed in relations between Serbia and Croatia. Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, who made this statement said that if the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats sign a peace agreement in Bosnia then Russia will call for the lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia.

[Solovyev] At the end of his three-day peace-making trip to Zagreb, Knin, Sarajevo, and Belgrade Vitaliy Churkin, deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the Russian president, expressed cautious optimism in his view on the development of the situation in the former Yugoslavia at a meeting with journalists. It is possible that in the next few weeks a breakthrough to peace may begin in the talks on several dangerous regions at once.

[Begin Churkin recording] There are all the signs of the possibility of breakthrough, and on the whole complex of questions of the settlement in the former Yugoslavia. It seems that relations between Belgrade and Zagreb have gotten out of their static state after the meeting which took place two days ago in Geneva between Presidents Milosevic and Tudjman. Signs of progress have been observed and there has been some thawing in relations between Croatia and the Krajina Serbs after their agreement that the well- known bridge near Maslenica will go into operation; this will make it possible to arrange communications between two previously separated parts of Croatia. And at the same time Croatian troops will be withdrawn from a number of regions.

We are working on the question of first of all making the sanctions against Yugoslavia less rigorous. I am aware of the international community's attitude to this matter and so I think that realistically it will be possible to speak about making sanctions less rigorous precisely when an agreement is signed on peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina. [end rcording]

Chernomyrdin on Problems in Germany Visit

LD2007201593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1740 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by German Solomatin; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Solomatin] Viktor Stepanovich, please tell us about the results of your visit to Germany. Please tell us whether the Irkutsk meeting between Kohl and Yeltsin when, in my view, everything picked up made your task any easier? Or were there any complications?

[Chernomyrdin] It so happens that my visit was a continuation of what had taken place in Tokyo during the G-7 meeting, attended by our president, and the results of the summit are [changes thought], the main thing is that we have a logical continuation of the meeting between Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl and this naturally colored the visit in its own way. I would put it this way - that it was precisely a continuation in the best sense of the word, a continuation and even a broadening of the areas under discussion, involving many problems. In the course of those two and a half days spent there, I had 63 meetings. You can imagine how tight the schedule was. I was given this opportunity of meeting everyone. This goes, above all, of course, for the business circles, the entrepreneurs, and heads of the largest firms. I think that to some extent they have been able to hear first hand what is taking place in Russia, what we intend to do, how we plan and intend to service the debts we have been bequeathed—the official figure for Russia's indebtedness is 30 billion [currency not specified] and we have to settle this with them, and they have been able to hear what we plan. That is to say, I think that we have had a good and businesslike conversation and I, for one, do not think that things would have turned out the way they did but for the meeting between the president and Helmut Kohl beforehand.

[Solomatin] Viktor Stepanovich, a tendency was taking shape prior to the G-7 meeting and the meeting between Yeltsin and Kohl that there are no differences, so to speak, between Yeltsin and Kohl on a personal level, that there is complete understanding between them. However, business circles and economic relations between Russia and Germany have come to a kind of standstill in the past two months. Has your visit given some kind of incentives to German business circles, or provided confidence that prospects are reliable?

[Chernomyrdin] I would put it this way. It may be not in these two months that some kind of deterioration or decrease took place. Trade turnover has gone down somewhat since 1992. I believe there were some objective reasons for this, and not only in Russia. Certain problems have appeared in Germany itself. One should be honest here. Germany is experiencing to a certain extent the same problems with its eastern laender. The process is identical. They have their eastern laender and we have the whole of Russia in this situation where we are facing such economic difficulties.

I can give the following answer to you. My view is that, first and foremost, they began to get a greater and better understanding of what is happening in our country. If in the past they just saw that we had problems, even problems like not knowing who to deal with; numerous discussions were held here, the regions, the federal government, ministries and so on [sentence as heard]. Now, when they turned out to be in a similar situation, they have a clearer picture. When we discussed specific problems with all bodies beginning with their federal bodies and ending with their lender bodies, which is important to us —in our country these are regions and republics—both they and us got a clearer picture. We immediately understood each other here. I told them how we are building things at the present time. Can they work with us or not, and if so, what needs to be done for that. I think it is very important that such a meeting has taken place, precisely from the viewpoint that they must get on with us. There is no need to be afraid of us. No matter what happens in our country—we will not talk about it all that much, there are difficulties, but there is no catastrophe.

For us Germany is a very important state, not because someone owes someone something there. I did not ask them for anything—not for loans or for subsidies. In principle, something quite different was at issue. What precisely did we deal with? Germany is one of those countries that occupies a special position in Europe. It is one of the major states. Naturally it has influence in Europe. At the same time, Europe does not really accept us with our goods. That is, they want us to yield everything, as long as it is resources. We want to work with you, as long as it is in the sphere of resources. We want to cooperate with you, as long as it is in the sphere of developing oil, gas, and other facilities. That is not quite to our liking. In that case it will be a long time before we extricate ourselves.

As far as metal is concerned, if we do it on the level of metallurgy, the answer is no. On the level of light industry, the answer is no. On the level of other goods, the answer is no. How can that be? What are we supposed to do then? It turns out that they have completely closed in on Russia on all sides.

[Solomatin] Made it into a raw materials appendage?

[Chernomyrdin] And they keep on pushing us into a single channel, the channel that we have already been in. This is why we are suffering today. There is no need to hide it here. This is what is indeed happening, they are not letting us proceed freely, either to the right or to the left, but they point out the path to us. We are not going to work like that. We cannot settle accounts like that. That is what I told them. I did not hide it. You want us to settle accounts with you, we will settle accounts. We have assumed our obligations and we took upon ourselves those debts that belonged to the Soviet Union.

Russia will bear responsibility for them and will pay up. But then let us work and cooperate. We are prepared to earn money and settle our accounts. We do have something with which to settle accounts, and not only oil, gas and other things. That is not really to our liking. That is what we told them. Let us expand our contacts. We have a very high-powered conversion program.

I do not think that we are inferior to anybody in the field of space, or that it is impossible to cooperate with us, or that they do not have problems and interests linked with space. Why should we be second-rate in this? So our discussion was in this vein. After we spoke with the businessmen, they understood it better, too. We are prepared to give guarantees and to be responsible for our enterprises and collectives which can work jointly in our country, in their country or in third countries. Are we half-wits or something? We have everything for this. Enough of keeping us within certain limits, as the saying goes! We will not put up with this!

[Solomatin] Viktor Stepanovich, in connection with this and the privatization which is under way in our country, there have been many reports on corruption among those officials who work with Germany. Was this issue raised by German businessmen during your visit?

[Chernomyrdin] Privatization was discussed in such a way, every time—especially as regards entrepreneurs and companies which are either private, state, semi-state or joint-stock companies—every time the question was asked: How are things in your country? How is privatization going? What kind of relations will we have? I would not say that corruption was mentioned in any way. No, it was not. Maybe, perhaps, because there wasn't time. But the issue of privatization was of interest because they, too, are involved in privatization. They are also facing considerable problems today. But a different sphere of activity is opening today, a sphere which belongs to privatization or, rather, has been brought about by privatization. That is, the possibility opens up for us to carry out privatization in our country and to participate in their privatization, too.

Germany is one of the countries which tell us today that they are ready to offer us 100 enterprises, from 100 to 600 enterprises—choose any you like and privatize them, take part in privatization, that is, buy property and invest. Of course, privatization conditions are different for each enterprise.

Following our meetings, a large team has already arrived from Daimler Benz, a major world company. We are ready to work with them, and not only for the benefit of Russia and Germany but, I believe, for other countries, too. One should simply work, and that is all.

Kokoshin Discusses Military Cooperation With Germany

LD2007214593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Kulbitskiy and Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Bonn, 20 Jul—An agreement on cooperation in the military sphere signed by the Russian and German defense ministers this April should become a sound basis for the development of bilateral contacts. This was stated today by Lieutenant General Juergen Schnell, deputy inspector general of the Bundeswehr, during talks with Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, who is Germany on an official visit.

Within the framework of this agreement, in 1994 the Bundeswehr is prepared to receive the first group of Russian officers for studying at the Hamburg Academy of Army Commanders, General Schnell stressed. He praised highly the readiness of the Russian military leadership to complete the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces as scheduled and assured that the German side will render the help necessary to fulfill this task.

The discussion, held with the participation of heads of the directorates of the German military department, also dealt with issues relating to the reorganization and reduction of the armed forces of Russia and Germany, to the conversion of defense enterprises and also to the budget problems of the two military departments.

On the same day A. Kokoshin and Peter Wichert, the state secretary of the German Defense Ministry, signed a protocol on the procedure for visits by delegations from the defense ministries of the two countries.

Reports on New Ambassador to Japan 'Far From Reality'

LD2007191693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—A high ranking Russian diplomat denied the reports which recently appeared in Japanese newspapers alleging that Sergey Krasavchenko has been appointed "new Russian ambassador to Japan", saying that these reports are "far from reality".

The diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity told ITAR-TASS by telephone today that Sergey Krasavchenko was appointed first deputy head of the Russian president's administration in the middle of June, and "there is no question about his appointment as Russian ambassador to Tokyo."

Border Patrol Stops Japanese Fishing Boat Near Kurils

OW2007133893 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] A Pacific Border Guard District patrol vessel detained the Japanese schooner (Kuku Maru) with five fishermen on board for illegally fishing in our waters, one mile off shore in the area of the Southern Kuril Islands.

Confidence Building on Chinese Border Under Way

PM1907132993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Andrey Krushinskiy article: "To Prevent Clouds Gathering on the Horizon"]

[Text] Beijing—Peering through the telescope lens I gazed upon the twisting chain of forest-covered mountains, the border formed by a meandering clearing cut through the trees, and a building of some kind—most likely an observation tower, only a Russian one.

I was at Hill N, near the city of Xufenhe, up a Chinese border tower ringed by zigzagging trenches from where you had a clear view of many dozens of square kilometers of the Ussuri taiga and could even see the roofs of the nearby Russian settlement of Grodekovo. Year after year sentries on this tower trained their telescopes on the forest, the settlement, and the Soviet tower and probably recorded every incident, no matter how trivial, in their log book marked "top secret." They regarded the "other" side, quite simply, with hatred and fear. And the observers on the Soviet lookout tower opposite surely felt the same way.

I know this not from mere hearsay because 25 years ago I had occasion to visit the Russian side of the border. At a different spot on the bank of the Amur River I looked through the same kind of telescope as this and could discern the streets of a small Chinese town, and then I wrote a reportage entitled "On the Other Side of the River are Red Guards" (this was at the time of the Chinese "Cultural Revolution," a campaign almost as destructive as our present pseudoperestroyka). However, the confrontation between border guards that year was mainly in this form: They would go out onto the ice, try to move along the border strip, and immediately stray bullets would whistle past them. And when the accumulated fear and hatred later found an outlet in the bloody clash on Zhenbaodao (the island known in Russian as Damanskiy) it did not surprise me. But if someone had tried to predict then that I would live to see friendly handshakes exchanged by the telescope on the Chinese watchtower, I would have laughed in his face...

By coincidence just a few days before my visit to the Chinese border post I talked with a man most directly involved in the warming of the atmosphere. He is special envoy G.V. Kireyev, who heads the talks with the PRC in two areas—the demarcation of the border, and the mutual reduction of armed forces and the strengthening of confidence in the military sphere in the border region—and he was receiving a group of Russian journalists accredited in the PRC.

"I should like to use this meeting," he began, "to publicly repudiate the fears voiced in Russia's Far East that the talks will lead to the complete withdrawal of our armed forces from the border zone. In fact the discussion is not about removal but about reduction, about mutual reduction, furthermore..."

The fears are inevitable! Because of the mistakes in Russian foreign policy and its all too frequent disregard of national interests there is now a suspicion deeply rooted in the public subconscious about all ventures undertaken by Kozyrev's Foreign Ministry. And if even tiny Estonia can now dare to humiliate "Russian speakers" and lay claim to Russian lands, how can our fellow countrymen not be worried when they live alongside such a giant as China?

It is no wonder that the journalists' questions to Kireyev also sounded a note of alarm: "If our fortified areas are located right on the border line and the Chinese are a long way back from it, does this mean that Russia must withdraw from its version of the Maginot line? And since the northeast of China, unlike our Far East region, is more densely populated and crossed by main transport routes, will it not be more difficult for the Russians to return to the demilitarized zone in the event of a conflict? Are the Chinese not settling in our Siberia too actively? And are we not conceding Russian land to the Chinese in the course of the demarcation of the border?"

"National security interests are paramount for us," G.V. Kireyev stated. "They are not being waived either by the Chinese side or by ours, which represents Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan..."

This delegation, China's partner in the talks, is apparently unparalleled in diplomatic history. Even the principle of its formation does not presume the equal participation of the states represented by it. All four states have entrusted the protection of their national interests in this far from simple business to delegation head Kireyev, as though it were a Soviet delegation. This fact will perhaps vex our present pseudodemocrats, who have seized on the thesis of the "objective nature" of the disintegration of the "empire."

In Kireyev's words, demilitarization, as the sides have already agreed, will cover a territory of 100 km from each side of the border. Under this arrangement defensive installations will be retained: Only combat hardware (planes, tanks, and guns) will be removed or destroyed. It is planned that the number of servicemen and amount of hardware will be the same on each side, but the precise level has yet to be fixed.

An agreement on demilitarization and confidence-building measures has still not been finalized but is already "in operation": The unprecedented development of border trade and good neighborly cooperation are the quite visible results of the "warming" of the atmosphere. In this regard Kireyev rejected the rumors circulated by some of the Russian mass media about a "great migration" of Chinese to Siberia. Yes, Chinese workers, construction workers, and teams of subcontracting truck farmers have gone there, but for periods of time defined by contract.

Kireyev recently toured almost all of the northern sector of the border, which covers more than 2,500 km. Some issues remain to be clarified but on the whole the work is complete and border markers are being installed—423 of them in all. Indeed, some of the islands along the Amur and the Ussuri are going to China. But that is inevitable: The Russians were entitled to regard them as "their own" only while the border remained officially undemarcated. Under international rules a river border runs along the navigable waterway. Everything north of this hypothetical line is Russian, everything to the south is Chinese (including Damanskiy island).

...Standing at the telescope on the Chinese border tower I tried to imagine the distance from here to that island which became such a fatal landmark in the history of Soviet-Chinese relations. A few days later in Harbin I saw this with the utmost clarity. I was invited to an early morning press conference: The administration of Raohe—the main population center in the district where Damanskiy island is located—had decided to familiarize foreign journalists with the plans for organizing an "open zone" on their side of the border.

We talked with Wu Huei, chief of the district, a representative of the Nanai ethnic minority living in this territory (and in the adjacent regions of Russia). He knows Arsenyev's novel "Dersu Uzala" and has seen Kurosawa's movie—which, incidentally, he did not like.

"Come to the Ussuri and visit us," Wu Huei urged me. "We will show you the taiga of Dersu Uzala."

[Krushinskiy] "But this is a border region—are foreigners allowed there?"

[Wu Huei] "They are! There is trust and cooperation between us and the Russians now."

Russia has many borders now. And the longest and most "important" of them—with China, now the world's largest state—could be a model border. There is much to be done to achieve that, but there is nothing improbable about it.

For example, right now along the neutral strip by the highway between the Russian and Chinese checkpoints near Xufenhe they are building... a joint market. Kireyev said that Lopatin island, which will be handed over to the PRC as a result of the demarcation, will be managed jointly by the Russians and Chinese by common accord. And the "free zone" on Zhenbaodao—Damanskiy—island could be a special political symbol. The most convincing example of "beating swords into plowshares"!

As for the tower on Hill N which I visited, let it continue to serve, like its Russian counterpart. After all, the border is still the border. And the reliability of its protection on both sides will also promote mutual confidence.

Shakhray Discusses Nationalities Policy in China

PM2007115793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "S. Shakhray on China's Nationalities Policy"]

[Text] Beijing—"Only Moscow can mess up Russia," Sergey Shakhray declared in conversation with journalists in Beijing.

In expressing such an unflattering opinion of the capital's role after his trip to Sakhalin and China, the Russian Federation vice premier obviously had in mind the endless political feuds in the upper echelons of Russian power.

In Beijing Shakhray met with Li Ruihuan, member of the CPC Politburo Standing Committee, and I. Amat, chairman of the State Commission for Nationalities Affairs. Those talks showed that ideas of separatism do not enjoy the sympathy of the Chinese either.

The problem of settling interethnic relations in both countries was also discussed. In this sphere the chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy discovered much that is instructive in China's experience. He is impressed by the fact that autonomous entities in the PRC are absolutely equal with ordinary administrative-territorial units from the viewpoint of their rights. At the same time the Chinese Government, as distinct from Russia, possesses funds financed from the budget, which are used to support backward national regions.

There is another comparison not in our favor. There are approximately 20 higher educational institutions and a publishing house under the jurisdiction of the Chinese State Commission for Nationalities Affairs. While in Russia the once urgent task of training national cadres has totally dropped out of the authorities' field of vision, the vice premier complained.

"Is it possible to make an unambiguous assessment of the Chinese method of resolving the nationalities question, particularly if you bear in mind the protests against Beijing's policy in Tibet?", your correspondent asked. The vice premier replied diplomatically that he would like to refrain from assessing those events.

Moscow Terminates USSR-DPRK Timber Arrangement

OW2007135993 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Nine timber production locations in Khabarovsk Kray and four in the Amur Oblast belonging to DPRK will be closed. Starting at the beginning of next year, 15,000 Koreans from those locations will be deported to their homeland. Such is the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation. The decision terminates the agreement between the DPRK and the USSR for the procurement and joint processing of timber, and the rehabilitation of forests on the territory of the USSR.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Departs for Malaysia

LD2107085293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jul—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left by air for Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) today. This will be the first visit to that country by a Russian foreign minister in the history of relations between the two states.

The head of the Russian diplomatic department will then go to Singapore, where he will take part in the foreign ministers meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) that opens on 23 July.

Changing Pattern of Arms Exports Viewed

PM2007112793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1350 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By Sergey Brilev; from the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] [Brilev] Data on arms exports were published for the first time in Russia last week. The data were conveyed to the UN register of conventional weapons.

The mechanism of setting up the register, which was adopted last year by the UN General Assembly, envisages the presentation of all information before 30 April last. Thus, Russia was two months late.

Observers explain that this was primarily due to the faltering process of interdepartmental coordination, in the course of which it had to be agreed what was to be advised to the UN and what was to remain secret.

Compared with 1991, last year there was a drop in the number of tank exports by a factor of 79— six to Oman and one to Great Britain— and a 3.3-fold reduction in the export of armored combat vehicles. The largest purchasers were the UAE and Finland, who received respectively 80 and 84 vehicles.

Finally, there was a 1.5-fold reduction in the number of combat aircraft sold. China bought 26 SU-27 and SU-27UB ground-attack planes.

Even so, the revenue from arms sales amounted to $1.7 billion. [Passage omitted: filmed interview with Materev, first deputy minister for foreign economic relations and deputy chairman of Shokhin's interdepartmental commission for military-technical cooperation]

Finally, it can frequently be heard recently that in Russia there is a clash between foreign policy liberalism and foreign trade pragmatism.

First, it has been said that Russia is arming countries that are considered enemies of the western alliance, for example the submarine sale to Iran.

Second, Russia is banking on the rich Third World countries, whose arms markets have long been shared out among the producers of the developed countries. This naturally upsets those whom official Moscow has of late been describing as partners and allies.

Third and last, by arming certain developing countries Russia is fueling the arms race—only now in the Third World.

Political Issues

Press Minister Criticizes Mass Media Law Amendments

LD2107123693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] As you know, the Supreme Soviet has adopted at the second reading a number of amendments and additions to the Russian Federation law on the mass media and freedom of speech in Russia. Minister of Press and Information Mikhail Fedotov believes that these amendments reduce the freedom of speech to nothing and create an emerging threat of censorship. Here are the details from our special correspondent Georgiy Syrtsov.

[Syrtsov] In spite of the position of the president and Government of Russia, parliament has adopted amendments that enshrine the possibility of censorship by the Supreme Soviet over the mass media. Moreover, as was stressed by the press minister, this is a method of self-defense by the soviets from a free press. Mikhail Fedotov dwelled in detail on specific articles in this subordinate legislation and stated that their adoption created conditions for restricting freedom of the press in Russia, seriously worsened the legal position of the mass media, and the main thing, upset the balance of the branches of power with relation to the mass media.

The creation of supervisory councils and the rights granted to them, to endorse in post and to dismiss leaders of the state television and radio companies, was, in the view of the press minister, at variance with legislation on enterprises and the foundations of legislation on culture. I would add that the amendments adopted at the second reading by the Supreme Soviet will be submitted to the president in the near future. This is what Mikhail Fedotov said about this.

[Begin Fedotov recording] It is totally obvious to me that the president will use his legal veto, and this draft law will be examined again at the Supreme Soviet. It is also totally obvious to me that the Supreme Soviet has actually insulted both the president and the government by refusing to look at the amendments that had been proposed to this bill by them. I think it would have been correct if the Supreme Soviet had postponed examination of this matter from 15 to 16 [July] or to another day and had examined those amendments that had been proposed by the president and the government. [end recording]

[Syrtsov] I would add that the minister reserved the human right and right of author of the law to begin a resolute fight against restricting the rights of a free press, radio, and television.

Media Chiefs Criticize Amendments

PM2007121193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Vasiliy Fartyshev report: "No One Wants To Lose the 'Fourth Estate'"]

[Text] A press conference of leaders of Ostankino Television and the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company was held yesterday in the Russian Press House in connection with parliament's decision to create a system of oversight councils. Everyone—K. Ignatyev, O. Poptsov, V. Lazutkin, and A. Simonov, president of the Foundation for the Protection of Free Speech—concertedly assured journalists that the amendments to the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" virtually annul it, while the oversight councils are a "censorship party." According to O. Poptsov, for example, a "ministry of propaganda" is barefacedly being created, all this is threatening the normal development of society, and the president is simply obliged to exercise his veto.

The leadership of the "Channel Five" St. Petersburg Television Companies Council expressed its position in writing, and the choice of expressions used is the same: diktat, political censorship, an attempt against freedom of speech...

A. Simonov justly noted that not a single state in the world is in a position to finance four state channels and 89 regional television companies. Our society has not yet become either civil or democratic, hence so much arrogance, claims, accusations, and quest for an "enemy," V. Lazutkin said. He was the only one of the participants to admit that an oversight council is evidently vital, but it is important for it comprise not only deputies, but also people who are independent of parties, with a high creative potential and civic feeling.

By and large the impression from the meeting was as follows: A serious conflict may easily flare up in the struggle for the "fourth estate." Especially since the Ministry of Communications is already proposing to reduce the volume of broadcasts by 40 percent because of non-payments. Today, only one-half of the 106 billion [rubles] which the television companies need is being allocated from the state budget, and by September a serious financial crisis may also form.

At the same time, the speeches of the companies' leaders showed the ingrained habit of being beyond criticism as if there were not hundreds of critical speeches in the most diverse newspapers about television's "excesses."

References to foreign experiences and to civilized countries were made repeatedly. But in what other country could you find such uncivilized television where commentators take the liberty of being boors and expressing personal biased positions, where a national asset—the airwaves—ram down your throat for hours on end what you should do—and, despite the fact that the people are completely impoverished, it is instilled in them day and night that live has improved?

Further on Amendments

PM2007111993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Yuriy Gontar report: "Let There Be Freedom of Speech for All Shades of Opinion. Russian Parliament Finally Adopts Amendments to the Russian Federation Law 'On the Mass Media,' So Stormily Discussed in Recent Weeks"]

[Text] To be fair, the law on the freedom of the press did a great deal for reform, but then for some reason this law, which was one of the "most progressive"—no irony intended—suddenly started to falter. You only have to recall that certain newspapers have become hotbeds of marriage brokering, garbage, and pornography, while television, serving the pro-presidential forces, has at times played the role of troublemaker.

The parliament has gotten down to modernizing the law without waiting for the recess. This boils down to strict state licensing of the right to television and radio broadcasting, and, correspondingly, to the strengthening of state control of it.

Particularly of the television and radio broadcasting organizations which are either funded from the state budget or have been founded by the federal authorities, or are broadcasting on the territory of the Russian Federation. Special control will be extended to the electronic mass media, which has an effect on very large strata of the population. It seems right that the state should place under its supervision the content of programs which can form or conversely undermine morale, morality, charity, and patriotism.

To give the authors of the law their due, they picked a fairly optimum and democratic—in these conditions—method of forming a monitoring organ, which will be called the Federal Council Ensuring Freedom of Speech on State Television and Radio Broadcasting. Its basic task, to my mind, is to provide representatives of various political, cultural, religious, and other viewpoints with the opportunity to express their views on air freely and to an equal degree.

The Federal Council will also be formed very democratically—there will be one representative from each faction of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies. Furthermore, the Russian Federation president and the parliament presidium will each appoint two persons to the Council, and two envoys will also be delegated by the Union of Russian Journalists.

Today, when an openly dictatorial version of the new constitution for Russia is being written behind the Kremlin walls, which even before it is adopted, is beginning to destroy the country and pull it apart into principalities, it is very important to have television which will say who is who directly, without beating about the bush. It seems in our Russian situation that achieving national accord is the main task of the electronic mass media, and the creation of the Federal Council will help solve it.

Moving onto a strictly political assessment of the changes in the law on the mass media, you can recall the situation that took shape on the eve of the all-Russian referendum 25 April. At the admission of the parliamentary leaders, including Ruslan Khasbulatov, another two or three days of active agitation would have been enough to achieve victory in the referendum. The adoption of amendments to the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" will lead us away from authoritarianism on the screen toward equality.

Rutskoy's 'Campaign' Seen Mistimed, Ineffective

MK2107101093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 3

[Commentary by Valeriy Pogorelyy, KOMMERSANT-DAILY parliamentary correspondent, in "Aleksandr Rutskoy in the Far East" column: "Early Start of Election Campaign Is Fraught With Loss of Pace"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Whether Boris Yeltsin wanted it or not, but by sealing the vice president off in the Kremlin he offered Aleksandr Rutskoy a good opportunity to attend to his own career. The absence of any state affairs in the center is inevitably forcing the vice president to orient himself toward the regions. In addition, he now has enough time to take part in TV shows which help build the image of an official who has fallen out of grace and is suffering for speaking the truth, which is very popular in Russia. Aleksandr Rutskoy has also used his visit to the Far East (and today the vice president in Komsomolsk-na-Amure) to shape his image. It looks, however, as though the vice president has made a mistake by starting his election campaign too soon. Its progress is analyzed by KOMMERSANT-DAILY's parliamentary correspondent Valeriy Pogorelyy.

Apparently it was no accident that Aleksandr Rutskoy has chosen the Far East for his visit. The passions caused by Vladivostok's statement that it is ready to proclaim the kray a republic are still running high, while other regional authorities in Russia are not finally going to give up the idea. The vice president presumably has gone in the direction of the Pacific in order to try to clarify what could be expected from the regions in the future and how to use their discontent with Moscow for his election purposes. Predictably, addressing a meeting with representatives of local soviets in Khabarovsk, Aleksandr Rutskoy said what they would like to hear: The krays and oblasts must have more substantial powers than what they have now. With respect to the fundamental law prepared in the Kremlin and providing for upgrading the status of the regions, however, the vice president stated that the hasty campaign to prepare the constitution was launched in order to distract the people's attention from the "calamitous economic processes currently under way in our state." With the help of the new constitution, according to the vice president, some people would like to legalize what they have stolen, to assert themselves in power, and duck responsibility.

Nonetheless, by expressing such views, Aleksandr Rutskoy will hardly succeed in winning many constituents, who are taking a serious interest in politics, to his side. Since on one hand, he, just as the executive branch, supports the idea of leveling up the regions in their relationship with Moscow, and on the other, he shares the views of the representative branch on the constitutional process. In this situation supporters of the White House or the Kremlin (into which two categories the electorate is basically divided today) find it difficult to see much sense in supporting Aleksandr Rutskoy, since what the vice president is merely promising is already being done and not only promised by Boris Yeltsin and parliament.

To those who vote not for a program but for a personality, Rutskoy appears in a role that always been popular in Russia: a disgraced official suffering for revealing the truth. The vice president, however, played his main trump card—twelve suitcases with incriminating documents—without waiting for the game to start. The loud scandal about crimes in the upper echelons of power never led to any serious upheavals on Staraya Ploshchad. Those whom the vice president charged with corruption have remained in their posts and in revenge started washing Aleksandr Rutskoy's own dirty linen in public. His opponents managed to impart to the revelations a flavor of just another campaign, like the drive to stamp out drunkenness or an annual battle for the harvest. The absence of any serious results in the vice president's struggle against corruption is weakening the sharpness of all his subsequent statements on this score. As a result, the clamor produced by Aleksandr Rutskoy is now subsiding. And the vice president, well before the official start of an election marathon, is beginning to lose his image as a noble fighter against the crimes of the authorities and is beginning to look like the well-known plaintiff with thick files of documents who might be right but who has added nothing to his popularity.

'Democratic Organizations' Back Conference Draft

PM2007122593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Unsigned "Appeal by the Democratic Organizations of Russia Public Committee to Russian Federation Citizens" dated Moscow, 15 July 1993]

[Text] Dear Russians!

Russia's revival is impossible without the adoption of a new constitution. In order to overcome the economic crisis it is important that constitutional reform be completed as soon as possible. The constitution of a free Russia must be adopted no later than fall 1993.

The draft prepared by the Constitutional Conference, which involved representatives of the most diverse social groups and political orientations, must be considered the main draft constitution.

The work done by the conference was based not only on the draft submitted by the Russian president but also on the Constitutional Commission's draft, many articles of which were included in the final text. The numerous comments and amendments made by parties, trade unions, other public associations, and citizens of the Russian Federation were also taken into account. The draft can truly be called a summary version.

The Russian Federation president proposed in his statement of 12 July 1993 that the Federation's components consider the prepared draft constitution. This really confirms that our Russia is a federation and not the previous unitarian state and that republics, krays, oblasts, and cities of federal standing are in actual fact the force sustaining Russia. We appeal to the representatives of the state power bodies in the republics comprising the Russian Federation, the krays, oblasts, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg to consider the draft constitution prepared by the Constitutional Conference and approve it before the end of July.

It is preferable that the draft constitution approved by the Federation components be brought into effect by an extraordinary Congress of Russian People's Deputies. If the Congress does not do this, the Russian president and the Constitutional Conference must work out other options for bringing the new Russian Federation Constitution into effect.

Dear Russians, we call on you to support the draft Russian Federation constitution prepared by the Constitutional Conference and to do everything necessary to ensure its approval by the Federation's components.

[Dated] Moscow, 15 July 1993

Socialists Vow Not To Sign Draft Constitution

MK2107113093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 2

[Pavel Zakharov report: "Nonsignatories Do Not Betray Principles"]

[Text] The political fuss around the draft constitution prepared by the Constitutional Conference is revving up. Representatives of the consultative council of the Congress of Left-Wing Democratic Forces voiced their point of view on this and some other issues at a press conference yesterday.

The bloc bearing the above title comprises several smaller political parties, movements, and organizations preaching socialist ideals and nonviolent methods of struggle against the existing system. They have promulgated their creed in a statement containing a call for "stopping the advancing plutocracy" and "turning the country onto the road of reforms in the interests of working people, without resort to extreme measures."

A. Bobrovskiy, G. Sklyar and other leaders of the "nonviolent left-wingers" told the journalists that they had taken part in the Constitutional Conference but had not signed the draft of the charter. They are almost convinced also that components of the Federation will not sign it either. G. Sklyar added that the "nonsignatories" are getting telephone calls every day from the presidential team with entreaties to temper justice with mercy. But since nothing is said in the draft about social guarantees for citizens, the "left-wingers" are not going to betray their principles, G. Sklyar stated firmly.

As for elections for a new parliament, L. Vartazarova, chair of the Socialist Party of Working People, thinks they could not be held earlier than next spring.

Problems of Draft Constitution's Adoption Pondered

PM2107101193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 1

[Vladimir Urban article: "There Is a Draft Constitution But No Mechanism for Adopting It. Supreme Soviet Believes That Basic Law Should Be Approved by Congress or Referendum"]

[Text] In order to debate, it is at the very least necessary to know the subject of debate. In today's political life this applies above all to the draft of the new constitution.

Today KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes on pages 3-6 the draft of the Russian Federation Basic Law approved by the Constitutional Conference. Over 500 amendments were made to the original version during the conference's month of work. President Boris Yeltsin, speaking at the fourth plenary session in the Kremlin 12 July, found it necessary to remark that many deputies' active participation in the Constitutional Conference testifies to the fact that the draft constitution has now ceased to be a presidential or parliamentary draft—"it is now a single draft, the result of joint work."

But the Constitutional Conference did not answer the most important question: How exactly will the new constitution be adopted?

Although Boris Yeltsin announced that the next conference would take place at the beginning of August, when it is proposed to discuss the procedure for adopting the Basic Law and the law on elections, the Supreme Soviet was the first to react to this problem. Last Friday [16 July] it gave a brief Law "On the Procedure for Adopting the Russian Federation Constitution" its first reading. When speaking of the "presidential" and "parliamentary" (Constitutional Commission) versions, Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov typically described them as bad and very bad, but, in his opinion, "the presidential draft is not very bad." I quote these words because the presidential team long ago conceived the idea that the new constitution should be approved by a new parliament, after elections. But now, by all accounts, the existing Supreme Soviet has decided to seize the "constitutional initiative."

Every one of our readers, having today read the draft Basic Law proposed by the Constitutional Conference, can not only analyze it but also give their assessments on KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's pages. While under the new law (according to forecasts it will be given its second reading as early as this week) the constitution itself should be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies or a referendum.

Of course, if the Supreme Soviet accepts this law after its second reading it must be signed by the Russian Federation president. Only then will it come into force. But for the time being there is a draft constitution. Today it is submitted to a readers' court.

Democratic Reform Movement Welcomes Draft Constitution

LD2007215493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1622 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 20 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The Political Council of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms gave a generally positive assessment of the draft Russian Federation constitution today, noting that its approval at the Constitutional Conference has eased tensions in society and mellowed the confrontation between powers. This is what Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, said at today's news conference. [passage omitted]

Idea of Creating 'Presidential Party' Scorned

PM2007145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Zhukov report: "Will the President Have a Party?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The idea of creating a presidential party was voiced again last May. The "21st Century Strategy" Foundation under the leadership of the ubiquitous Burbulis published the "Russian Union 25 April" declaration. According to the declaration, this union is envisaged as the president's future party. With strictly individual membership and even with a recommendatory procedure, which no existing party in Russia has today. Furthermore, a strict organizational system is implied: a central apparatus and staff functionaries at regional and local level.

Let us recall: Today's radicals grabbed at power and their current "slice" precisely on the basis of criticism of the

CPSU as the state party. But now they themselves intend to create something along the lines of the "good old" CPSU.

So who are the potential members? Maybe the workers and the city intelligentsia to whom the president has repeatedly promised a better life in virtually the next quarter, and who cannot see this improvement even in the foreseeable future?

Or maybe the peasants, who are not in a position to buy a new tractor for all the renamed kolkhozes with the annual profits? They have all forgotten even the smell of sturgeon, and this cannot be compensated by any new constitution.

Of course, there is a certain stratum which is continuing to eat sturgeon just as it did before. Possibly, certain deputies at various levels, some of the small and medium businessmen, individual leaders of state enterprises, and of course, the heads of administration appointed by the president himself may join the ranks of the president's party.

It is hard to guess at the possible numbers in the new party. But what is certain is that it will not occupy a place like the CPSU did. Yeltsin's party can only become one of many current political organizations. But even to achieve this, the president will have to put all state affairs on the backburner and get down to forming it in real earnest. And indeed get involved in person, since there is no mutual accord among the president's supporters. Thus, Sergey Shakhray is creating his own political party; Gavriil Popov, who now heads the "Democratic Reform Movement," periodically distances himself from the president; Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has become, together with Konstantin Zatulin, creator of the new bloc "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia." Deputy Petr Filippov, leader of the analytical center of the president's administration, is advocating a coalition of various parties and movements of a democratic trend. And the not unknown Deputy Lev Ponomarev is convinced that all democrats-radicals, including the president's supporters, should continue to rally around the "Democratic Russia" movement headed by this figure. However, the participants in this movement who went to the 1990 elections with Yeltsin's name on their lips have already repeatedly announced their readiness to oppose the president. So that means the movement is going in a different direction.

The president will most probably have to form his party personally. But, seeing that he does not have any other, more important worries today...

Baburin Heads Russian Statehood Protection Fund

MK2007115693 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No 35, 20 Jul 93 (signed to press 19 Jul) p 2

[Unattributed report: "Baburin Forms Fund for Financial Protection of Russian Statehood"]

[Text] A Fund for the Protection of Russian Statehood was founded in Moscow on 16 July. Its objective is to "pool efforts of one and all in the name of reviving Russia on the basis of historical continuity, strengthening its statehood on democratic and patriotic foundations." Russian Federation People's Deputy Sergey Baburin was elected board chairman.

Yerin's Comments on Crime Situation Viewed

LD2007135093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent A. Yaroshevskiy on a speech by Viktor Yerin, Russian minister for internal affairs, at a news conference in Moscow on 20 July; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Begin Yerin recording] The number of attacks on individuals is on the increase. At the same time, unfortunately, weapons are being used more and more frequently. [end recording]

[Yaroshevskiy] At a meeting with journalists today Viktor Yerin remembered the police officers who have been killed, 99 people in six months. This sorrowful tally is increasing, as another officer was killed yesterday. In Moscow yesterday, two gangs fought among themselves with shooting involved; the criminals are already well known.

We are working in very difficult conditions, the minister noted, but we are working confidently. According to the statistics, the growth in crime has recently fallen and the number of crimes being solved is greater than last year, but there are now more serious crimes. Now it is not just the sound of gunfire which is being heard in Russian cities but explosions as well. Vengeance is being taken against authorites and business competitors, and groups are trying to gain spheres of influence.

Not so long ago cases of forgery of banknotes were unfamiliar to our militia, for example. Now they are run of the mill. An enormous sum—3 trillion rubles—is necessary today to equip the Russian militia with technology. Yerin said with cautious optimism that the government will very likely allot this money, as it sees that tomorrow it will cost a lot more.

Economic Issues

Chubays Warns Parliament Not To 'Hamper' Privatization

LD2007142993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Russian Vice Premier Anatoly Chubays, who is in charge of the big sell-off of state property in Russia, has warned the Russian parliament against adopting decisions which could hamper privatisation in the country and "deal a blow to millions of people involved in the process."

Chubays told a press conference here today that the parliament has prepared for approval four resolutions which "form a sufficiently integrated concept" aiming to "halt Russian privatisation."

According to Anatoly Chubays, these resolutions aim to repeal the president's decree on guarantees of the right to take part in privatisation, substitute individual privatisation deposits for vouchers and transfer the powers of the state property management committee headed by himself to sectoral ministries as well as suspend the 1992 state privatization programme.

Two of these four resolutions have already been approved by the parliament presidium and recommended for approval by parliament, Chubays said. They are listed in the parliament's Tuesday [20 July] agenda and are to come up for voting at 17.30.

The vice premier charged the parliament with "secret activities" as neither the government nor the state property management committee had been notified about the agenda.

Chubays told journalists that the move was taken in the interests of the parliament leadership and the irreconcilable opposition backing them and would sacrifice the interests of tens of millions of people.

Chubays said that as of July 1, 1993 a total of 57 percent of all small enterprises in Russia had become private and more than one-third of all labor employed in production at major enterprises are already working at joint-stock pr privatized enterprises.

The market rate of the privatisation voucher has for the first time reached the level of its face value, Chubays said." The parliament is aware that unless privatization is blocked immediately, it will never be able to do it in the future. This must have motivated the parliament in drafting its resolutions on the subject, Chubays stressed.

Privatization Committee Seeks Support From Investment Funds

MK2007105093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 3

[Yelena Kotelnikova report: "State Property Committee Looks for Allies. Investment Funds Back Chubays"]

[Text] The State Property Committee's desire to take the lead in drawing up the privatized enterprises' investment policies has pushed it to a closer cooperation with investment funds. The State Property Committee expects these funds to become the most active shareholders and participants in the investment programs for the restructuring and modernization of privatized enterprises. This was said yesterday at a press conference by Maksim Boyko, adviser to the State Property Committee chairman. Observers, however, note that by choosing the investment funds as its ally, the State Property Committee risks finding itself "on the opposite side of the barricades" with regard to the workers of the privatized enterprises, because the shareholders' interests tend to run counter to the workers' desire for higher wages and costly social guarantees.

The increasing role of investment funds in the privatization process has enabled them to lay claims on the State Property Committee's help in the creation of a tax climate favorable for them and the protection of their shareholders. According to Maksim Boyko, adviser to the State Property Committee chairman, his agency believes that the objective of the current stage of privatization is "the protection of the interests of the common investor." And since, according to State Property Committee information, 12 million Russian citizens hold stock in 550 Russian investment funds, the State Property Committee's "protective functions" should apply to them also. The committee's interest in the investment funds, however, is also attributable to the fact that they are the main participant in check auctions, which are the cornerstone of the State Property Committee's voucher privatization program. As a matter of fact, it is the investment funds that helped repel the parliament's recent attack on the privatization scheme "according to Chubays."

According to official information, investment funds hold one out of every six vouchers, and each fund has already invested an average of 28 percent of its vouchers in the enterprise stock sold at check auctions. At the same time, observers point to their uneven distribution over regions (96 in Moscow Oblast, 20 in Sverdlov Oblast, whereas Tomsk and Tula Oblasts have one fund each) and a high degree of dispersion of vouchers among the funds. Three of them—Pervyy Vauchernyy Fond [First Voucher Fund], Alfa-Kapital, and Moskovskaya Nedvizhimost [Moscow Real Estate]—managed to accumulate a total of over 2 percent of all privatization checks in Russia.

According to Vladimir Alekseyev, chairman of the League for Support for Investment Funds, however, the current legislation does not guarantee that the funds may take part in the drawing up of economic policies of enterprises converted to joint stock companies. In particular, it has transpired that workers of the Bolshevik joint stock company prevented representatives of Alfa-Kapital, a fund that holds its stocks, from attending a shareholder meeting. A lack of legislative guarantees prompts the investment funds to seek cooperation with the State Property Committee, whose chiefs have promised to defend their interests in the government. The Chubays agency, for its part, counts on further support from the funds in the implementation of its voucher privatization program and the State Property Committee's investment policy.

[Article includes the following boxed passage]

The State Property Committee's arguments for alliance with investment funds

- —the investment funds are popular among the population and have a high political potential because 12 million Russian citizens have become the funds' shareholders;
- —the investment funds are expected to have a significant economic capacity, because they have accumulated one out of every six privatization checks; each of the 550 existing investment funds has already invested an average of 28 percent of its vouchers in the privatized enterprises' stock at check auctions;
- —investment funds may hold the controlling block of shares of any enterprise within 10 percent of their authorized capital.

Investment funds' arguments for alliance with the State Property Committee

- —the State Property Committee has promised its help in creating a favorable taxation climate for investment funds, including even exemption from taxes;
- —the transfer of over 2 million vouchers unclaimed by Russian citizens to the specialized investment funds.

Vice Premier Fedorov on Economic Situation

PM2007152393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Interview with Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by Yelena Tokareva and Vladimir Sluzhakov under the rubric "Competent Opinion"; place and date not given: "Boris Fedorov: I Am a Member of Nobody's Team"]

[Text] Government Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov often grants interviews to newspapers to propagandize his views. And unlike ministers in the Gaydar government, for instance, he does not divide the press into hostile papers and "our own" papers. Our conversation with the minister took place on his initiative.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Boris Grigoryevich, after analyzing your many comments, we have reached the conclusion that one government of declarations has been replaced by another. Admittedly, Gaydar was prevented from carrying out reforms by Gerashchenko. Who is keeping you from carrying out the kind of reforms you are declaring?

[Fedorov] No one, not even the president, can undertake to carry out reforms alone. What actually happens is the result of a struggle between different opinions. A great many people take part in the management process. There is a lot of debate on each specific question before it is resolved. The fact that things that could be done swiftly are done too slowly is a hindrance. For instance, since 1 July we have ceased selling 30 percent of hard currency via the Central Bank and have begun selling it via the market. It is quite clear this should have been done long ago, but we were prevented from doing it. There cannot ever be a "team" in the sense of total harmony. There are different views within the government. Some people want the economy to be controllable from top to bottom, some are keen to carry out the radical liberalization of absolutely everything... And I disagree with them.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Can we be specific? Against the background of your repeated statements totally refusing so-called technical credits to our friends from the former republics, all of a sudden, after repeated shuttling to and fro by Kravchuk and Chernomyrdin, Russia has promised Ukraine an indefinite credit at an interest rate concealed from the public plus another 2.6 million tonnes of oil on top of the 20 million handed out earlier. And all this at preferential prices, that is, not at world prices... Before this Yeltsin allegedly promised Georgia a credit too.

So there is still the old paternalist policy regarding the independent states, whereas payments, including wage payments, to our own Russian citizens are being severely squeezed...

[Fedorov] I fought openly against technical credits and repeatedly called the Central Bank—the conversations were not easy. Eventually on 20 April the Supreme Soviet decided that the credits should be ratified. Not a ruble has gone anywhere since 20 April. Second [as published], parliament set a ceiling—a sum many times smaller than that in the first half-year, let alone last year: It is 800 billion rubles [R] at present. There is no credit to Georgia at all. You are misinformed. And the credit to Ukraine actually falls within this ceiling (R800 billion), but no agreement has yet been signed. And it will not be signed. Until a credit agreement has been drawn up enshrining this sum in dollars. And then the libor [London Inter-Bank Offered Rate] (a specific rate) plus a percentage on top is applied to it. This policy will be pursued with regard to the CIS countries according to which of them is less economically developed and which more. This is the normal credit practice existing throughout the world. I am very pleased we have managed to achieve this.

Expressing the credit in dollars makes it practically depreciation-proof.

Second, all these credits are introduced into the budget, by decision of the Supreme Soviet, and will be issued only when we receive credit from the Central Bank. We still do not have this.

Now for the second part of your question: The reduction in payments to our own citizens. Laws in our country are adopted by the Supreme Soviet, and if it has not incorporated in the budget, the spending promised later, superfluous expenditure, will naturally be trimmed. Of course, there are protected budget headings, but there are also unprotected ones, and those are the ones we cut.

Thus it was decided to increase wages 1.9 times as of 1 April, but this was not incorporated in the budget.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] But before the referendum the president promised the people essentially the same thing the Supreme Soviet had promised: an increase in pensions and grants. Why, on the day when Yeltsin made the promise, did you not make the statement you made two months later in the Supreme Soviet? And say there is no money, so there is no point in making promises.

[Fedorov] You, of course, cannot know how the process of official signature [of documents to indicate assent] went or what I put my name to and what not... You can be sure that I expressed opposition to most such expenditure decisions that were referred to me.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] When you quietly oppose something that is professionalism, but when you are vocal in your opposition it is politics.

[Fedorov] I am not acting quietly, I am openly lobbying for a presidential edict on not adopting new [expenditure] decisions. I have lobbied for the Supreme Soviet to adopt a decision on credits for the CIS countries. I personally will lobby for a provision stating that countries where there is discrimination against the Russian-speaking population should be given nothing.

The political struggle "for the people" is very bad for skilled decisions. You can ask anyone in the government who is the most hated person in it—it is me, because I am the one who refuses money to everybody.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What is the explanation for the fact that the Ministry of Finance came up with a peculiar 3 percent duty on industrial enterprise profits in favor of agrarian workers? Why again make payments indiscriminately to everybody, without distinguishing between those capable of surviving and hopeless cases?

[Fedorov] You must realize that such a proposal could not have originated within the Ministry of Finance. It originated within the Ministry of Agriculture and parliament's agrarian committee. Within lobbying structures that year in, year out hatch demands for new subsidies. But I take quite a calm view, because the decision will nevertheless be made by the Supreme Soviet and not, say, by some single person in the government or in the Supreme Soviet. I am counting on parliament's good sense.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Then, in connection with the question of sense, please explain the point of keeping the monopoly on grain prices inside the country. Grain prices are three times lower than they are on the world market.

[Fedorov] The Law on Grain was adopted before my time, but I am proposing that implementation of some of its articles be delayed at least until 1 January. Clearly the grain prices that exist inside our country merely help American farmers. I am fighting against this, but you are criticizing me in your paper. Many conversion enterprises that are now making their own equipment for the oil industry and processing complexes are emerging in our country, yet we are purchasing all this for hard currency. So I am proposing a government decree banning state-funded imports in cases where we make similar equipment ourselves.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The situation in the coal industry is no better. Coal prices have been released. But there is still no policy on unprofitable mines, for instance. Are people going to honestly say in the very near future that such-and-such mines, which are minimally profitable or, more simply, loss-making, are going to be closed at such-and-such a time and the authorities will pledge to find jobs for the staff of these mines?

[Fedorov] All the decisions that have been adopted on the coal sector are purely such an economic policy. First, sufficient benefits are being established for coal industry workers precisely in order to ensure that the coal industry has a normal life. There is, of course, the same 3 percent duty as there is in favor of agriculture, but it is channeled into the reorganization of unviable mines. We cannot simply close mines—there are settlements around them, and they contain people. It takes money to move people to places with more of a future. But even if 50 percent of mines can live a normal life on their own income, we will still have to support the rest. That is our policy. It is aimed at increasing coal exports; we do not need so much inside the country, and there are customers abroad...

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Let us touch on the export of raw material commodities. This used to ensure the survival of the entire country and its industry. But now it ensures a comfortable existence for a few individuals who, thanks to the shortsighted liberalization decree of Gaydar's government, have "access to the body of the country."

A diametrically opposed document again bearing Yeltsin's signature—on regulating the export of strategically important goods—emerged in midsummer last year. In effect an attempt was made to regain the state's monopoly on exporting a number of goods. Has it proved possible to stop the free-for-all and regain this monopoly? And has it proved possible thereby to do at least something to fill the hole in the budget?

[Fedorov] First, what existed before Gaydar cannot be described as foreign trade at all. It was corrupt and monopolized. Do you know how many people were shot under Soviet power for the crimes that some people are accused of even now? It is a different matter that even during liberalization, under Gaydar, nobody created an effective system of currency controls. This was done neither in 1989 nor in 1990. We set up a lot of banks without ensuring controls over them. This liberalization was carried out unprofessionally. I can permit myself to criticize Gaydar's policy because I was never a member of his team, and in general I am not a member of anybody's team.

After the disintegration of the USSR we had open borders on all sides, and the upshot was that freedom of trade took the form of raw materials going abroad at low prices. Tough measures had to be introduced, but certainly not a state monopoly.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What about the reports that oil is being exported in terrifying quantities? We ask once again: Does the budget get anything out of this?

[Fedorov] It is the only thing that is supporting the budget.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What about some figures?

[Fedorov] The prosecutor's office is on the case and is investigating the suitcases mentioned by Rutskoy. Having said that, the fewer quotas, the better. Our decree on currency controls is aimed precisely at controlling the circulation of hard currency in the country. We must take measures to ensure that a single currency circulates in the country.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Will this be possible?

[Fedorov] It is a question of the implementation of decisions. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Finance does not have currency control functions. They belong to the Central Bank. As vice premier I am taking measures. This is a matter of principle so far as I am concerned. Perhaps it will be possible to issue a Supreme Soviet decree. On this point I agree with Khasbulatov: We must combat dollarization.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Let's imagine that Mr. Chubays has privatized both industry and agriculture overnight. But these new-old private entrepreneurs will again approach the state for investments. There is nowhere else to get them.

[Fedorov] That is a very major problem. Agriculture is probably the biggest black hole in the economy. First, we are making every effort to keep this process within certain limits. A Credit Commission, which I head, is working to this end. Thank God, during the second quarter we were able to keep within the limits we outlined in the agreement with the Central Bank. Of course, if you look at agriculture's application for the third quarter, it needs R4 trillion. According to our estimates, [it needs] about R900 billion, which we are trying to distribute carefully. At present this system is extremely inefficient.

But it cannot be abandoned straightaway. That would be shock therapy, which everybody dislikes. But while there is high inflation, the banks will not provide reasonably long-term credits. In this sense the fight against inflation will mean that we will be able to abandon preferential state credits. Although agriculture receives subsidies in every Western country. But the amounts must be commensurate with the budget's potential and must be better substantiated than at present.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Judging by experts' estimates, we cannot avoid at least two upsurges in prices: following the further hikes in prices of energy sources and grain. Is it part of the Ministry of Finance's job to elaborate measures to ensure that these two surges do not coincide? To ensure that citizens' discontent does not take acute forms. Remember that at a certain point Gaydar was forced to backtrack.

[Fedorov] Well, last year there were practically no strikes. Have agrarian workers gone on strike? The number of unemployed is falling. No enterprise has been closed, no director has been fired. So the potential for a social explosion should not be exaggerated. There are always going to be malcontents in a country that is moving away from socialist realism, where everyone lived at the state's expense. Although among industrial enterprises there are far fewer of them than there were at the start of the year.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] So you do not believe in the likelihood of strikes?

[Fedorov] There is never a time when there are no strikes in the country. What prompts them is a different matter. You can make a comparison. The economy of Ukraine, where a conservative reform scenario has been put into effect and where there has been no whiff of any market measures, is crumbling before our very eyes. There is total collapse. It is hard to imagine what else this may result in from the political viewpoint. In our country the reforms were more radical. So the social situation is less difficult than in most republics of the former Union. There is some degree of saturation of the market and there is no blanket slump in production. We have moved away from the verge of hyperinflation. That cannot be denied. The ruble exchange rate has been holding firm for a month now.

A whole series of other indicators show that the situation is still grave. But I would refrain from asserting that there are going to be another two shock waves. Coal prices have been released. And so far no one is feeling shock. And let us wait and see the price index for July. I offered Mrs. Rozenova, chairman of the Russian Committee for Prices, a personal bet about her forecasts that coal prices would go up by a factor of four, six, or 10.

As far as other energy sources are concerned, prices will naturally go up. Having said that, the state will continue to regulate gas prices. They should be changed not once every six months, but more often, so that the jumps are smaller.

Our policy today, and the one which I have always professed, is a long way from shock therapy. I am not an advocate of solving all problems overnight. And today we are adopting a position of advancing consistently but calmly. Everything must be measured against the gravity of the consequences in the economy. Nobody wants to wreck it, although we are suspected of this.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Let us return to the first question. People put the mass defaults on wage payments to budget-financed workers, and not only to them, entirely down to you: In this way the government is curbing the rise in prices, as it were. The policy is very similar to last year's.

[Fedorov] That is quite unjustified. You can believe it or not as you choose, but no one has set such a task. This all results from the fact that the budget was unbalanced because of the president's edicts and the Supreme Soviet's decisions.

If there are none of these new decisions in the second half-year, implementation of the budget will at long last attain the quantity laid down by law. What is need is simply a more realistic budget, not a new one or some market one. What is now being said in parliament is populism and an attempt to prove what cannot be proved. No one is bothered about the state's interests here. Pensioners are being robbed through the same policy of indexation. If we let go of these reins, then I assure you that life will be even worse.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] This was probably what prompted Chernomyrdin's letter to parliament asking that the minimum wage not be increased. Deputies' reaction was unfavorable.

[Fedorov] Before increasing the wage, you should calculate the consequences and choose an approach taking into account all the factors. That is the essential point that the premier's letter was making. The mechanism for indexation must be different. Incidentally, even parliament does not deny this.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The situation with regard to enterprise payment defaults is probably nearing crisis point. It has reached R1 trillion in the oil industry alone. In a similar situation last year the government was forced to provide credit to industry, which provoked the spring leap in inflation.

[Fedorov] The government is not going to do that now. All the sums given for debts of R6-8 trillion are still not overdue payments. And they are growing more slowly than inflation. That is quite good in itself. So the measures that will be taken are multifaceted. On the one hand we must introduce a procedure for bankruptcies and receivership [sanatsiya]. There is no avoiding this. Anyone who does not pay must bear liability. The other aspect is this: We have almost finished proposals on formalizing debts in promissory notes. There is also a general shortage of monetary resources when the spending planned in the budget is less than the actual spending. So the more realistic budget for the second half-year is a guarantee that payment defaults should be resolved.

Conference Discusses Fuel Payment Problems

LD2007182493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent K. Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The situation in Russia's fuel complex was discussed at a conference in Moscow today.

[Belov] The conference was chaired by the parliamentary speaker and attended by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister, and some government ministers. Ruslan Khasbulatov directly linked this event with the all-Russian economic conference.

Judging by the speeches made by representatives of fuel complex enterprises, non-payments by Russian consumer enterprises and practically all CIS countries remain the main problem. A call was voiced at the conference to channel state subsidies not to fuel producers but to their consumers so that the latter can pay for fuel.

Officials Cited

LD2007214893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 20 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in the Russian fuel and power engineering complex and ways of stabilizing it were at the center of attention at today's meeting on measures to stabilize the work of extracting industries in Russia's fuel and power engineering complex. The meeting took place in Moscow at the initiative of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the government, and became a kind of preparatory stage before the all-Russian economic meeting.

"We want to hear again the opinion of experts on the situation in the fuel industry and take it into consideration in our future work," said parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, opening the meeting.

First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets told participants in the meeting that the situation in Russia's fuel industry is closely monitored by the government. According to him, it is necessary to find reliable mechanisms to provide the economy and the population with fuel resources. Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and power engineering, also stressed the key importance of the fuel and power engineering industry for the functioning of the entire economic mechanism. He especially underscored that it is necessary to work out a price policy on fuel that would force other industries to economize energy resources. For now, he said, the consumption of power per unit of output is three times higher in Russia than in Europe. [passage omitted]

The resolution adopted at the end of the meeting underscores that the priority approach to development of the fuel and power engineering industries must be translated into financing of federal services, including a tariffs agreement and subsidies to coal industry enterprises, as well as state investment in major construction projects; preferential credits for seasonal needs and supplies of oil products to Far Northern regions, and keeping nonbudget funds of financial regulation in the fuel and power engineering complex.

The resolution proposes that the government should maintain price parity on raw materials and products made from them through a reassessment of the price policy.

Natural Gas Prices Raised; Excise Duty Levied

PM2107085193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Gas Prices Rise"]

[Text] The Russian Council of Ministers has set the state wholesale regulated price of natural gas at 7,900 rubles [R] per 1,000 cubic meters as of 20 July, and is levying a 15-percent excise duty on the price of gas sold.

The government decree says that "sales of natural gas to the population and housing construction cooperatives shall be at the price of R2,000 per 1,000 cubic meters, including value-added tax." As of 15 August monthly indexation of wholesale natural gas prices will be introduced for industry. Supplements for gas extraction organizations (sales agents) [pereprodavtsy] will also be indexed on the basis of the average index of industrial output prices for the preceding month. But these measures will not extend to the production of gas for the population and for housing construction cooperatives.

Aide Cites Figures on Labor Migration

PM2107090793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[INTERFAX report under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Our Jobless Are Going Abroad"]

[Text] About 130,000-150,000 Russian citizens are currently working abroad on labor contracts, and in addition about 100,000 probably constitute an illegal labor emigration. This was announced at a press conference by Vladimir Volokh, deputy director of the Federal Migration Service.

According to data from the Federal Migration Service, over 1 million people are without work in Russia, and 750,000 of these are officially recognized as being unemployed. "The external labor migration is designed to ease this problem somewhat," V. Volokh said. According to him, more than 1 million people have expressed a desire to work abroad, and another several million Russians are looking at the possibility of doing so.

Jun Consumer Price Index at 344 Percent of Dec

PM2007130193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Results for First Six Months: Wages Not Keeping Up with Prices"]

[Text] According to figures provided by the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, the consumer price index in June this year was 344 percent of the December 1992 value. During the first three months the inflation rate fell: It was 27 percent in January, 26 percent in February, and 21 percent in March. The summary consumer price index rose in April by 25 percent due to a 1.9-fold increase in prices and rates for paid services. The sharp price rise expected as a result of the beginning of price deregulation for energy sources did not occur in May and June. Consumer prices increased by 19 percent in May and by 20 percent in June. The rise in the population's incomes continues to lag behind the rate in the growth of consumer prices. For example, during the first five months the average monthly wage increased 2.3-fold while prices increased 2.9-fold.

Official Criticizes 'Industrial Groups'

PM2007123993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 2

[Article by Irina Savvateyeva: "Young Oligarchies Want To Be Legalized"]

[Text] This document has already been signed by the first vice premier: "I approve it. Work should be completed on it..."

We live in an era of the repartition of property. And in a country like Russia which, as we know, is bountiful but disordered. Of course, the majority of Russian citizens who have never had property feel no particular emotions on this score. And they view their privatization vouchers either with distrust or with mild curiosity. But there, there are places where privatization is generating serious passions; where voucher auctions which are taking 500 enterprises a month out of state control are sowing panic and confusion.

The top echelon of the nomenklatura is losing the ground under its feet: It is losing power. Those who, not without advantage to themselves, combined state service with private interests, are losing the opportunity to make easy money with cheap state credits and export deliveries.

Revenge can be now or never: One-fifth of property subject to privatization is already distributed into private hands. A few more months and given the present pace of destatization the process will be irreversible.

The passions surrounding privatization which are seething with new force today on Staraya Square and in the "White House" could seem theoretical intrigues. But that is not the case. Take as an example a document which has been vigorously promoted by interested circles in government and is already officially supported by the first vice premier, "Chernomyrdin's man" Oleg Soskovets. Another "concept" has been born deep in the committee for industrial policy.

Essentially what is being offered is as follows: Half of Russian enterprises (very large and very small ones are not included) are to be united into 30-100 industrial groups by means of the transfer of the controlling block of these enterprises' shares to the leadership of the groups. I quote:

"The state units in each industrial group enterprises of various sectors and regions with different financial positions and economic prospects. The general principle for unification is economic: Enterprises which produce a substantial profit today unite with enterprises which could produce a substantial profit tomorrow after relatively small investments and enterprises which could produce a very substantial profit the day after tomorrow after substantial investments."

"Voluntary participation (that is, the agreement of the administration and labor collective) in unification into industrial groups is not required."

"...the increase in the competitiveness (of Russian industry—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial note) will be formed of the following components:

"—the opportunity to maneuver and concentrate resources;

"—...a great reduction, right down to an insignificant level, in the labor collectives' participation... in management.

"...the possibility of giving them (the enterprises—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial note) orders in the form of directives."

We asked Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Administration of State Property] to comment on this document. Here is his opinion.

On the possible economic consequences of the creation of financial groups

"These groups will never be effective. Despite even the fact that they intend to concentrate finances and include bank capital in their structure. After all, they are trying to unite the enterprises according to a long-known principle: so that money can be taken from those who are working well and given to those who are working badly. Actually bureaucrats are securing jobs for themselves on the basis of this redistribution.

At the same time the industrial groups will extract money from the state. And the state will be obliged to subsidize them because it will be impossible to allow the bankruptcy of even one such group, which gives work to 0.5 million people. This policy will push inflation to a level of which we do not even dream today, after which it will become virtually impossible to fight it. Actually, one can live with hyperinflation. But the result will be the monstrous stratification of society and the complete disintegration of the state.

One more threat is the overmonopolization of industry. So far, thank God, we have several thousand large-scale enterprises. They would be replaced by 30 or 100 corporations with which no one will be able to compete since the faucet of state subsidies will be always turned on for them. And since the giants will require giant subsidies, small and medium businesses will get nothing. They will simply be unable to exist alongside the industrial groups and will be completely destroyed.

In this situation we will not receive any foreign investments. Let me put myself in the position of an investor. Investing money in grassroots enterprises? There is no point, because they are all under the control of the industrial group's ruling clique. Investing in this group itself, which is an independent joint-stock company? That holds no interest either. Because it is impossible to compete with it, impossible to buy it: It is too expensive.

When we put forward all these arguments we are told: You are against large structures in general, yet without them it is impossible to compete on the external market, where our producers are opposed by the multinational corporations. But I have nothing against arms producers, for instance, joining into a financial and industrial group. But individually. And only for work on the foreign market in order to compete with U.S. arms producers. But such groups could unite, for instance, 5 percent of industry, 10 percent is already too much and could have adverse consequences. Nor do I have any objections when the formation of financial and industrial groups is by market means: When a growing market entity buys up enterprises of interest to it. For instance, as Tulavtorchermet [expansion unknown] is doing, having already bought several dozen enterprises at voucher auctions.

What will happen to voucher privatization?

The authors of the idea assert: "Everything will be fine! The population will invest its vouchers in grassroots enterprises." They will be able to invest, but what then? These shareholders—the Russian public—will have no opportunity to influence the industrial groups or their policy with regard to the enterprises. And again people will be deceived. Yes, the vouchers will remain. But there will be no normal market in securities. With a diktat of 30-100 financial groups, tell me how the shares of the enterprises under their subordination will be quoted. In general, under the conditions of such tough monopoly diktat by private ownership they can be regarded as private property only by a big stretch of the imagination. Rather they will be pseudoprivate property.

Who gains as a result of the ministry's style of privatization?

Some ministerial structures which today's privatization could leave without the means of subsistence. The directors of stagnating enterprises threatened with bankruptcy. Commercial banks which will join the "approved list" and are included in the sharing out of state money. And also some super-rich Russian people accustomed to warming themselves against the warm back of the state. Those who do not know how to make money by toiling tirelessly as small and medium businesses have to do today, but who have made their fortunes by fleecing the state.

Possible sociopolitical consequences

"We are strengthening Russia," the supporters of industrial groups say. "We take one enterprise from Irkutsk Oblast, another from St. Petersburg, another from Krasnodar, and we gather them all together." In actual fact by such actions they are merely pushing Russia toward a breakup. After all, in real life there are also regional elites in addition to the Moscow political establishment. And these elites will hardly like it when Moscow starts to snatch enterprises away from them. There can only be one response to such "privatization": nationalizing what has been privatized by Moscow and separating from the country which does not want to consider territorial interests. And then it will only be possible to hold together the disintegrating state with the aid of force.

Military Affairs

Indexing Delays Add to Defense Ministry Debt Problem

PM2007113593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin report: "The Greater the Army's Debts, the Stronger Our Defense?"]

[Text] The Defense Ministry today owes defense sector enterprises working on the state order 1.5 trillion rubles. The military department simply does not have that money in its coffers. And it is not known whether it will turn up.

The Defense Ministry has two deadly enemies—inflation and the Finance Ministry. You can only keep pace with inflation, that main "gain" of reforms, by indexing. But this has to be done in a timely manner. And the Finance Ministry is in no hurry. The result is unfortunate: In the first half of the year alone the Defense Ministry was unable to build 2,500 apartments and failed to issue around 1,000 arms and pieces of hardware.

Cash Problems Cause 'Serious Discontent' in Military

PM2107100793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 1

[Igor Chernyak report: "Discontent Grows in Staffs"]

[Text] Increasingly serious discontent is growing among officers of the Russian Ministry of Defense General Staff and apparatus. It is attributable to the fact that the military do not agree with the intentions of the Cabinet of Ministers to freeze the operation of those articles of the Russian Law "On the Status of Servicemen" which have the most substantial impact on their material situation. One high-ranking General Staff officer, who wished to remain anonymous, spoke about this.

In his words, despite the fact that the aforementioned law came into force 1 January 1993, several of its articles, in particular those providing for the payment of one-shot allowances for discharged servicemen and of leave allowances [otpusknyye uslugy] and others, are still not in operation. In addition to all this, payment of officers' leave allowances is being held up, and people have to register almost one month in advance to get their money. "If the Chernomyrdin government does indeed decide to rescind these clauses in the law once and for all, we will be obliged to stand up for rights," the General Staff officer said. He declined to clarify what form this would take. However, according to some reports, there are already action groups in the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff prepared to assume organizational functions in protest actions. "The government is itself pushing us into the ranks of the supporters of Viktor Anpilov and Stanislav Terekhov," the General Staff officer said. "Military men are obedient people, but we cannot look on in silence while ministers themselves trample the law. I am sure that the troops will understand and support us."

A spokesman for the Russian parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security Questions last week confirmed that the government has indeed examined the question of suspending certain articles of the Law "On the Status of Servicemen" with a view to reducing military expenditure.

In the opinion of observers, the outcome of the conflict now depends on Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The military also hope that President Boris Yeltsin will support them. After all, a situation whereby the Ministry of Finance owes the Ministry of Defense more that 1 trillion rubles cannot be considered normal.

Spokesman Urges Crackdown on Draft Deferrals

PM2007114193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 3

[Igor Chernyak article: "Will Only Old Men Go Into Battle?"]

[Text] The situation with regard to the manning of the Russian Armed Forces is still critical, Lieutenant General Vladimir Bondartsev, first deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces Main Organizational-Mobilization Directorate, said.

He said that the results of the spring draft have finally been summed up. Some 170,000 people were drafted, which only met 13 percent of Army and Navy requirements. The result is that today the Russian Armed Forces have 51 percent of the required number of personnel, with more officers than enlisted men and NCO's, the shortage of which amounts to over 700,000 men. According to Bondartsev, if extreme measures are not taken, after the fall draft troop staffing levels will drop to around 30-35 percent. At the same time, according to Defense Ministry figures, as of 1 January 1993 there were over 1.8 million people on Russia's military records. Only 300,000 can be drafted, that is 16 percent, since the rest enjoy deferrals.

The general announced that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry has taken a number of steps to resolve the problem. According to him, in 1992-1993 the number of Army and Navy personnel dropped by 0.5 million; civilians are being admitted to a number of posts, and as of 1 January contract personnel began to be recruited. However, all this has failed to change the situation. For instance, 100,000 people have been recruited on contract, less than 10 percent of the total number. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry is prepared to take another 50,000 contract personnel, however that will require 12 billion rubles, which the Russian Government has so far failed to allocate. Moreover, these 50,000 people are a drop in the ocean, the main source of troop reinforcements being the draft.

The military department's spokesman sees the solution in lowering the requirements for the contingent to be granted deferrals. In his opinion, many of the 300,000 men who failed to enter the Army in the spring on health grounds could nonetheless have donned military uniform. A demand was also voiced for deferrals not to be granted for the 1 million students at higher educational establishments, technical colleges, and vocational and technical schools, at least for the next two to three years. "The government did, admittedly, authorize those students at secondary and special educational establishments over 20 years of ago to be drafted, but only 1,000 of them were recruited throughout the country and they do not solve the problem," Bondartsev said. He stressed that it is not military commissariats, but the local authorities, that is, administration heads, that are responsible for the Army draft today.

In conclusion Gen. Bondartsev gave his own personal viewpoint. He believes that every Russian citizen should serve in the Army and expressed regret that this is not the case today.

Military 'Trying To Hamstring' Nuclear Inspectorate

PM2107094193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 93 First Edition p 6

[Yevgeniy Solomenko article: "Army Smoking Break on Powder Keg"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—This case has been covered in the St. Petersburg press. A soldier fired at all the guards accompanying a carload of nuclear munitions, afterwards the guards ran off. The secret train then continued on its way absolutely unguarded. It crossed St. Petersburg, a stone's throw away from Nevskiy Prospekt, and then rushed across several more Russian oblasts, packed with nuclear death and without a single guard...

How We Attempted To Blow Ourselves Up

The world had amassed tens of thousands of nuclear munitions before realizing that the main problem today is not the effectiveness of these super weapons, but their safety. To which end strict and daily controls are needed from the state and the public. The military should not be monitored by the military themselves. Documents from the International Atomic Energy Agency (which our country joined back in 1957) stated that one of the main principles of nuclear security is that it be independent of departmental controls.

But in this country all supervision of nuclear weapons is concentrated in the hands of the Defense Ministry. How effective it is can be judged from the story of the guards who were fired upon. Was that an unforeseen occurrence, the exception to the rule? By no means! It was not so long ago that missiles exploded under the very noses of Vladivostok people—the Pacific Fleet arsenal went up in flames. A few years previously military dumps near Severomorsk had caught fire and exploded. Anatoliy K. who witnessed this accident, recalls:

"We battened down hatches in our submarine and watched through the periscope as hundreds of solid-fuel rocket engines—a good proportion of the Northern Fleet's total stockpile—exploded and went sky-high. These flames kept 'flickering' over us for a long time. And the nuclear munitions storage facility was in the same area—just a few hundred meters from this gigantic fire. It did not 'go up'—God saved us..."

For decades we were told that our armor was strong, our tanks were swift, and our nuclear shield was our security guarantee. Yet we were constantly trying to bring our "reliable" shield down on our own heads. As was the case off the shores of Kamchatka, for instance. That was when a nuclear ballistic missile was "launched" all by itself. It blew off the submarine silo cover and came down after flying 960 meters. Fortunately, it flew out to sea rather than toward inhabited areas and the nuclear warhead did not explode on hitting the water.

But how many more chances can we afford to take? We all have long been hostage to this terrible lack of controls.

Military Annul President's Edict

Yet it is two years now since the Federal Inspectorate for Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor] was set up in Russia. It is an independent organ designed, apart from anything else, to ensure monitoring of the safety of our nuclear arsenal.

On 5 June 1992 the Russian president ratified the statute on the Gosatomnadzor: "The Gosatomnadzor... within the limits of its competence, adopts decisions that are binding for... military units located on Russian Federation territory..., it is entitled to carry out without let or hindrance at installations subject to monitoring inspections of the state of... the safety of... nuclear weapons... and to give the leaders of... military units binding instructions on the eradication of any violations revealed...."

A new presidential directive was issued 9 April 1993. It sets out the task even more strictly and specifically: "The Russian Gosatomnadzor is to survey before 1 December 1993 enterprises, organizations, and military units of... the Russian Defense Ministry with a view to checking on the provision of nuclear and radiation safety."

Neither the first nor the second directive from the supreme state official has been carried out. The Gosatomnadzor is not to blame for this.

Of all the state committee's districts, the North European District is of particular importance. It is the most explosive—literally and metaphorically. Three major large strategic formations—Leningrad Military District and the Northern and Baltic Fleets—are concentrated here. But, above all, there are large Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Defense Forces, and Air Force combined units and dozens of arsenals and storage facilities with nuclear weapons. And, added to all this nuclear abundance, are the bombs and missiles we have withdrawn from Europe and from our "nearest neighbors." Here more than anywhere we need tight controls, as the president is demanding.

Having received his instructions from "on high," V. Martynov, chief of the Gosatomnadzor's North European District, duly sent out letters along the following lines: "To Colonel General S.P. Seleznev, commander of the Leningrad Military District: It is planned to carry out the work to verify nuclear and radiation safety in your military district in accordance with the Russian Federation president's directive No. 224-rp of 9 April 1993 as of June 1993. Please issue the appropriate instructions to the military units under your command."

But he came up against a "polite counterattack." Lieutenant General V. Sokolov, Leningrad Military District chief of staff, replied: "In order to obtain permission for your inspection teams to gain access to the district's combined and other units you must apply to the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff." Admiral V. Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, responded in the same vein: "In connection with the fleet's lack of normative acts covering the organization of inspections to monitor nuclear and radiation safety, I would ask you to apply to the Defense Ministry on the matter of inspections of the Baltic Fleet."

Military men are subordinate men. They have two gods—regulations and orders. Military service has always observed the practice that all state directives must be backed up by an order from the defense minister. It is only after this has happened that a civil directive becomes binding on any unit commander. But there has been no corresponding ministerial order.

The result is that there cannot even be any question of nondepartmental controls—the Gosatomnadzor inspectors have been unable to embark on their planned checks in June or July.

Back on 25 May Gosatomnadzor Chairman Yu. Vishnevskiy invited representatives of the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Atomic Energy to a conference on just how to carry out the president's directive. It turned out that there was no way. Then a military unit commander told me confidentially that, soon after the conference, the chief of a Defense Ministry main directorate issued instructions to all units under his command not to have any contact with Gosatomnadzor organs on questions of nuclear weapon safety checks! Just try disobeying that order once you have received it. It would be a question not merely of dismissal, but probably of a tribunal too.

A special inspectorate for monitoring the safety of nuclear weapons has been set up in the North European District and in other Gosatomnadzor districts. But here is what Inspectorate Chief Mars Iskanderov says:

"We recently received our district's work plan for the third quarter. We are currently forced to inspect solely civil institutions—the Krylov Central Scientific Research Institute, the 'Rubin' Central Design Bureau... Because we are not being given access to a single military unit."

The only thing left for him to do today is to monitor military weapons in organizations which... do not have any!

The Army remains a state within a state, and even directives from the president (who, incidentally, is also supreme commander in chief) do not constitute instructions for it. And in this "internal state" hundreds of dangerous nuclear units are quite naturally in constant movement—they are being loaded and unloaded, having checks done on them, or being transported over our potholed roads...

And these alarming indications are not isolated cases. When being loaded onto a submarine at a Northern Fleet base, a ballistic missile slipped off a crane and crashed down. Fortunately not onto concrete, but onto some crates that happened (I emphasize—just happened!) to be below to break its fall. Even so, the impact was sufficiently severe for the nuclear warhead to fly off several meters away from the missile. There was no explosion.

Missiles have been known to catch fire. Trucks transporting nuclear munitions have been known to topple over... Any of these accidents that we know nothing about could have turned into a disaster that would make Chernobyl look like a picnic.

Defense Against Independent Inspectors

It is clear that objective and independent monitoring of the safety of the contents of nuclear weapons is not a whim but a necessary condition for our common survival. But the Armed Forces are mounting a rearguard action against the "spies" from the Gosatomnadzor. Do they not trust them? Are they afraid of leaks of secret information? But Mars Iskanderov is himself a retired vice admiral— just two years ago he was chief of the USSR Navy's Central Scientific Research Institute. And all the other staffers at the inspectorate are graduates of the same Defense Ministry system which is directly in charge of nuclear weapons. Only yesterday they were veritably wallowing in its secrets, but are now no longer considered trustworthy.

Paradoxically, our Defense Ministry has of late had increasing contacts with the Pentagon, as has the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy with the U.S. nuclear complex (exchanges of information and specialists, reciprocal visits to installations, and so forth). But to our own, Russian, inspectors their doors remain shut tight. It is not hard to see what kinds of "information leaks" our commanding elders are worried about.

Nor is the Russian Supreme Soviet—in whose offices draft laws on nuclear weapons and nuclear energy have gotten bogged down—in any hurry either. So the Gosatomnadzor inspectors basically have no normative legal basis for their work. Not counting the president's directives, which are strongly reminiscent of two paper dragons. There is a third "dragon" (of paper yet again) as well—the recently adopted Russian Law "On Defense." It states that, "the organization of defense includes... civil controls over... Defense Ministry activities."

Just Who Is the Gosatomnadzor Monitoring?

The birth of the Gosatomnadzor was an exceptionally important political step for Russia. For the first time a blow was struck against our most terrifying monopoly—the Ministry of Atomic Energy and Defense Ministry monopoly on nuclear monitoring. Typically, the question of the need to set up this new state committee within the entire USSR was raised back at the "dawn of perestroyka"—in the mid-eighties. But then the monopoly departments rose up against it, and the matter was "frozen" for several years.

It was only in late 1991 that now-sovereign Russia saw the appearance of a presidential edict on the creation of the Gosatomnadzor, which was to be directly subordinate to the president himself. Not a single department—even the most influential—can "pressure" Russia's chief nuclear monitor.

But now there has been another powerful counterattack. Behind-the-scenes intrigues and departmental whirlwinds have sprung up around the new state committee. Its powerful opponents have been trying to hamstring it so that no "outside" inspections or poking noses can go prying into nuclear test ranges, nuclear submarines, or missile units.

Iskanderov has a map of the U.S. nuclear complex on his office wall. This map was compiled from materials published in the open press. We also know from newspaper reports that there were more than 120 accidents involving nuclear weapon launch vehicles in the United States between 1955 and 1980. **We do not even have a rough idea of "what" has happened in our country and "how often."** Yet if they had information about such accidents, Gosatomnadzor experts in conjunction with scientists from the Russian Academy of Sciences and specialists from the Ministry of Atomic Energy and the Defense Ministry could elaborate a reliable strategy for nuclear safety.

When U.S. military aircraft started losing nuclear bombs, Congress intervened and precautionary measures were substantially tightened up. But were a Russian aircraft to unintentionally lose a bomb, and if its nuclear warhead (again "accidentally") failed to go off, our "congressmen" would not even know about it. Nor would the president or members of the government.

Supreme Soviet

Request To Suspend Sevastopol Resolution Rejected

LD2107085593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—The Russian parliament voted down on Wednesday [21 July] a request to suspend its resolution proclaiming Sevastopol, the major base of the Black Sea Fleet, as Russian territory.

Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Moscow City Council, made the proposal and offered to the Supreme Soviet to settle the problem in an international court. "It is necessary to appeal to an international court and only then advance (territorial) claims to that of another state", he told lawmakers.

The Russian parliament added oil to the fire of the Russian-Ukrainian dispute over the Black Sea Fleet by proclaiming Sevastopol in the Crimea as Russian territory. The Crimea was handed over from Russia to Ukraine in 1954 by former Soviet Communist leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Gonchar added that, according to his telephone talk with Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin, the situation in Sevastopol is very tense after the parliament adopted its resolution. "I am not asking to cancel the decision of the Supreme Soviet, I am asking only to consider the issue again", Gonchar appealed.

But parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov fired back: "We are as well aware of the situation (in Sevastopol) as is the chairman of the Moscow City Council".

Committee To Analyze UN Debate

LD2107092793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—The Russian parliament instructed the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations to analyse the results of the U.N. debate on the question of Sevastopol. The parliament agreed with a statement of Deputy Gennadiy Sayenko made at a session today, that according to the information he had received from confidential sources, the U.N. Security Council had discussed Ukraine's request regarding the Russian parliament's decree on Sevastopol.

"I do not insist that this is so, I do not have full information on the matter, but I ask to verify it, since it is asserted that the parliamentary decision on Sevastopol is 'without effect'", Sayenko said. He stressed the need of verifying to what an extent this information is in keeping with reality, what was the stand of the Russian Foreign Ministry and how Russia's representative in the Security Council acted.

Khasbulatov Concerned Over Ingush-Ossetian Conflict

LD2107093793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has expressed concern over the situation in the area of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict. He told a parliament session on Wednesday [21 July] that he had a talk with Viktor Polyanichko, head of the provisional administration on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, late on Tuesday night.

Having described the situation as "tragic", the parliament speaker said "people refuse to implement our mutual decisions about the return of refugees. They have been left to their own devices".

Khasbulatov emphasised that "a masterful, authoritative go-between as represented by federal executive authorities is essential" to settle the conflict.

Privatization Duty Taken From Chubays Committee

LD2107104693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—The Russian parliament deprived privatisation supremo Anatoliy Chubays of the right to manage state property and the decision would deal a heavy blow on privatisation in the country, according to Chubays.

A resolution of the parliament adopted Wednesday [21 July] transferred the rights to privatise property from the State Property Managing Committee, headed by Chubays, to the government which, in turn, is to share them among ministries and departments. Corresponding parliamentary commissions and committees were instructed to work out the necessary legislative amendments.

Anticipating the decision, Chubays, who is also deputy prime minister, warned legislators on Tuesday that the resolution violated several laws adopted by them. He doubted the legality of the parliamentary decision.

The Wednesday resolution is the latest attack on Chubays undertaken by legislators who oppose his way of privatisation. Earlier attempts to stop it failed mostly because the people supported the economic course of the president at the April 25 referendum.

According to observers, privatisation is the only and major success of Russian reforms.

Quorum Requirement Reduced to 50 Percent

LD2107112993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1115 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS—The Russian parliament today introduced substantial changes to its own procedures amid protests from some members. The parliament will now need a simple majority of fifty percent in attendance to vote on any matter at its plenary sessions instead of the earlier required quorum of 75 percent of its total number of members.

Votes had to be taken twice before the desired result was achieved. This procedural change, pushed through by deputy parliament chairman Yuriy Voronin, was described by democratic-minded deputies as "infringing on the rights of parliament members". Sergey Nosovets of the opposition bloc "Russian Unity" said the parliament leaders were ready to push it through at any cost, because it was much more than just a modification of the procedure.

Deputy Discusses Troop Withdrawal From Tajikistan

LD2007161793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] A Russian parliamentary delegation, which recently returned from the conflict zone, has shared its view on the situation that formed after an armed clash on the Tajik-Afghan border. Deputy Georgiy Kuts, a member of the delegation, touched on the issue of a possible withdrawal of Russian troops, including border troops, from the territory of the Tajikistan. It was noted that, first of all, the necessary material conditions have not been prepared for this. The deputy cited as a similar negative example the situation in which the Russian military formations withdrawn from the Baltics found themselves.

Law on Precious Metals, Stones Passed

LD2007223593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—A state monopoly on geological prospecting of deposits of precious metals and precious stones, and on the mining, production, and sale of them is one of the key stipulations of the law "On the state regulation of the mining, production and use of precious metals and precious stones, and on state control over operations involving these valuables," passed today by the Russian parliament.

According to the legislative enactment, the mining of precious metals and precious stones (other than diamonds) may be effected by enterprises, irrespective of their form of ownership, and also by physical persons who are properly carrying out entrepreneurial activities on the territory of Russia. This is done on the basis of special authorizations (licenses). The mining of precious metals and precious stones for personal use is prohibited.

Article six in the law states that the state fund of precious metals and precious stones, including the diamond fund, is exclusively federal property and is not subject to privatization or leasing. The Russian Federation's gold reserves are exclusively federal property. The law also stipulates that a report on the state and use of the gold reserves is to be submitted annually by the bank to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

One of the sections of the law sets out the norms of state control over operations involving precious metals and precious stones, and the accountability of legal and physical persons for violating the procedures for mining, producing, using, and selling these valuables. It emphasizes that precious metals and precious stones illegally acquired or used are liable to be confiscated and handed over to the appropriate state fund.

Deputies 'Vexed' Over Mine Support Fund, Constitution

PM2007153393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 1

[Aleksey Vorobyev report: "Sixth Supreme Soviet Session. Enough of Raising Taxes"]

[Text] Two fundamentally opposed approaches to economic policy clashed when a joint session of the Supreme Soviet chambers on Tuesday, 20 July, discussed the draft law "On a Special Tax To Create a Financial Support Fund for Enterprises in Priority Sectors of the National Economy" proposed by the Cabinet of Ministers. The draft provides for the creation under the Finance Ministry of a special nonbudget fund to finance subsidies to agriculture and the coal industry.

Parliamentarians were in absolute agreement that these sectors are in need of substantial assistance this year, but where is the money, where are the resources to form this fund to be found? The government's option is to increase value-added tax from 20 to 27 percent. Of the additional 7 percent raised, 3 percent would be given to the coal industry and the other 4 percent to the agro-industrial complex.

Increasing taxes in the current situation is the wrong way, it was unequivocally stated in the course of the discussion. These were precisely the considerations which guided the parliamentarians in categorically rejecting this draft law.

Deputies—mainly representatives of the so-called democratic wing, admittedly—also had many questions about the draft Supreme Soviet decree "On Work on the Draft New Constitution of the Russian Federation." What vexed them first and foremost was that the decree proposes that the draft new constitution received from the president and formulated in the course of the Constitutional Conference be examined in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the law, with a discussion in the Constitutional Commission and parliamentary commissions and committees. Figures of a democratic persuasion have evidently not shaken off the triumphant euphoria of the Constitutional Conference, believing that only the document created there should be the basis of the constitutional process.

Answering its opponents, one of the authors of the decree noted that a confrontation should not be created out of nothing, and the draft submitted by the president should hardly be seen as the end of the creative constitutional process. This draft, like any other, must also be directed into the channel of the legitimate constitutional process; only this can be the legitimate way to work on the new constitution.

After this the law "On Combatting Corruption" and the Russian Federation law "On the State Monopoly on Alcoholic Products" were adopted.

Parliament Approves Housing Program for Servicemen

LD2007165793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The state program for providing housing for servicemen, persons demobilized in reserve or retired from military service, officers of Interior Ministry, as well as members of their families in 1993-1995, has been approved by the Russian Parliament today. The program was presented to the Supreme Soviet by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

This program envisages building for the mentioned categories of servicemen 30.9 million square meters of total floor space in residential houses, or 516,000 flats, including over 147,000 this year. It is planned to allocate 1723.9 billion roubles and 500.7 billion roubles of capital investments respectively (in prices of the year of 1993).

Deputies stressed that housing construction in the volumes indicated in the state program will make it possible by the end of 1995 to considerably reduce the acuteness of the housing problem, and also ease social tension among servicemen.

The government together with the Central Bank of Russia have been commissioned to submit in the third quarter of this year proposals for the consideration of the Supreme Soviet on rendering goal-oriented preferential credits for carrying out housing construction for servicemen and members of their families, including individual house building.

Parliament Factions Hold Joint Press Conference

PM1607141593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Linkov report under the "Faction" rubric: "Time To Get Together"]

[Text] "We believe that now, when the country is in a very deep crisis, we must get together despite our political views"—this was the explanation given by I. Vinogradova, coordinator of the "Free Russia" deputies' faction, of the reason for a joint press conference. A rare occurrence, of course—coordinators of the "Motherland," "Workers' Union," "Agrarian Union," "Fatherland," "Communists of Russia," and "Sovereignty and Equality" factions yesterday assembled in the same hall. Participants in the press conference delivered a series of statements. One of them concerned the Constitutional Conference, the first stage of which has just been completed. Incidentally, it cost the Russian taxpayer 3 billion rubles.

In their statement the deputies' factions contend that the draft constitution prepared at the conference can and must be considered by the Congress together with other drafts. But the haste in the constitutional process has led to an artificial straining of relations between republics, krays, and oblasts. Another instance of haste—over immediate elections of new deputies—will seriously harm Russia's state integrity. The document expresses the hope that, relinquishing functions that do not properly belong to it, the federal government will finally get to grips with the economy's problems and with searching for ways out of the crisis.

Another statement concerned the decree on Sevastopol's status adopted earlier by the Supreme Soviet. The point is that the Russian president and Foreign Ministry delivered statements 11 July which contradict Supreme Soviet decisions. This creates an unprecedented situation regarding parliament's constitutional prerogative to formulate the state's foreign policy. The executive branch's policy of unilateral compromises without taking account of the legislature's will is condemned. The Foreign Ministry's leadership has been instructed to disavow its statement.

At the press conference V. Sokolov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, gave detailed explanations of the work being carried out on the revised indicators of the federal budget for 1993. It was clearly explained that parliament is not to blame for the delay in adopting the draft law. For example, the revised indicators should have been submitted to the Supreme Soviet back on 15 April, but they appeared only on 26 June.

B. Tarasov, coordinator of the "Fatherland" faction, delivered a statement expressing the legislators' support for the Russian-speaking population in Estonia.

Regional Affairs

Atomic Energy Commission Investigates Chelyabinsk

LD2007141793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—A commission of experts from the Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry, headed by Stanislav Malyshev, chief engineer of the ministry's science, technology, chemical and nuclear directorate, flew to Chelyabinsk-65 today to investigate the causes of the accident at the Mayak radio-isotope works. An

ITAR-TASS correspondent learned of this from Vitaliy Nasonov, deputy of the ministry's information directorate.

The results of the investigation are expected to be announced before the end of the week.

'Evasive Answers' Criticized

PM2107090193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Andrey Illesh and Valeriy Yakov: "Discharge of Radioactive Substances at Chelyabinsk-65 Not as Harmless as the Ministry of Atomic Energy States"]

[Text] As already reported in the press, radioactive contamination of the working premises occurred at the Mayak Production Association near the city of Chelyabinsk at 1645 hours on 17 July, and there was a partial discharge into the environment. The Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy asserts that, according to the seven-point scale of the International Atomic Energy Agency, this incident is rated at level one—insignificant.

According to the preliminary data the incident was due to a seal failure in the sorption column, and alpha particles with an activeness of 0.2 millicuries or 3 percent of the maximum permissible daily norm for discharges from the enterprise were released through the ventilation system into the atmosphere. The sorption column has a capacity of 20 liters and is housed in a ferroconcrete pit. Workers were not exposed to excess radiation, there were no injuries, and no shut-off valves [perekrytiye] or premises were destroyed. A Ministry of Atomic Energy commission is investigating the causes of the column seal failure.

In the opinion of representatives of the international organization Greenpeace in Russia, the discharge figure may be understated, as has repeatedly happened with similar occurrences. Especially since this time, too, the public was not informed of the accident until two days later.

But even three days after the discharge IZVESTIYA has not been able to obtain detailed, intelligible, or exhaustive information from the Russian atomic departments on what actually happened at Plant 45 of the Mayak Production Association and what effect this might have on the lives of the local population. Evasive answers such as "the commission has begun work" and "we will report further on the results of the investigation" do nothing to boost optimism or confidence. At least one thing is clear: The Mayak Production Association is too important an enterprise for a report of an accident at one of its plants to be regarded as ordinary. Situated 15 km east of the city of Kyshtym and 70 km from Chelyabinsk, Mayak carries out the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from VVER-440 [water-cooled water-moderated] reactors and spent fuel from the Navy and the submarine and icebreaker fleets. Uranium-plutonium assemblies for nuclear electric power stations are produced here, there is a radioisotope plant in operation, and there are 24 burial chambers for highly radioactive waste...

In 1957 the combine suffered the worst accident in the entire history of the industrial use of nuclear energy. Furthermore, it was only 30 years later that the Soviet Government admitted the accident and IZVESTIYA wrote about it for the first time. Lesser incidents were not reported at all. This time the report on the accident came within two days. Once more in a reassuring tone and without details.

Leak 'Localized,' 'No Threat'

LD2107103793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The radioactive leak that occurred on 17 July at a works of the Mayak production association in the town of Chelyabinsk-65 has been localized and represents no threat to the staff, the population, or the environment. Thus reads a report by the joint commission of the State Committee for Emergencies of Russia and the Ministry of Atomic Energy, circulated by the INTERFAX agency. It also reports that the dose of radiation received by staff at the radio-isotope works does not exceed acceptable levels.

Rutskoy Meets With Deputies in Khabarovsk

LD2007123493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0425 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 20 Jul—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, speaking today at a meeting with deputies of local soviets, heads of enterprises and public organizations, and representatives of political parties and movements in Khabarovsk Kray, stated that "the center, the government, and the presidential system of power are incapable of dealing with the crisis situation and leading the country out of the blind alley."

The system of government has broken down in Russia, he stressed. The vice president thinks that the basic system and bulwark of power should be based in the territories and regions and that the krays and oblasts should have more considerable powers and be able to determine priorities independently, according to their own specific circumstances.

A. Rutskoy expressed the opinion that "the campaign for the hurried preparation of the constitution has been launched to divert people's attention from the ruinous economic processes being pursued in our state today. Through the new constitution, attempts are being made to legalize the proceeds of robbery, to secure positions of power, and to avoid responsibility." The vice president believes that the constitution should not be adopted before the parliamentary body and president have been reelected.

Rutskoy is continuing to acquaint himself with the state of affairs in the Amur region. He is expected to make a live speech on Khabarovsk TV this evening. He will spend the following two days in Komsomolsk-na-Amure.

Far East Leaders Discuss Establishing Republics

OW2107051793 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0512 GMT 14 July 93

[Report on interview with Sakhalin Oblast Soviet Chairman A.P. Aksenov and Khabarovsk Kray Soviet Chairman I.N. Tsvetkov by V. Voropayev; place and date not given; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] A decision to institute the Ural Republic was announced last week. Previously, a similar decision was made by the Vologda Oblast Soviet, and then by the Chita Oblast Soviet and the Maritime Kray Soviet. These events are more systematic than they are sensational. How do the leaders of Far East territories view them, and what is the prognosis?

[Begin recording A.P. Aksenov, Sakhalin Oblast soviet chairman] Almost all territories are beginning to study the possibility of establishing something like a republic. This is connected only to the fact that the Constitutional Conference is actively working.

Personally, I do not support establishing such republic-like structures. Let us imagine that all of us, all 89 of us, were republics. The question is, would we be a federation then, or what? According to the Constitution, a republic is a sovereign state. In other words, there are many questions here. One of the possibilities that we discussed at the last Supreme Soviet meeting was the urgent need for all Federation members to gather and, without stepping into the political arena and drawing the masses there, try to find some kind of compromise that would not allow new politically destabilizing events in our society to break out. [end recording]

Another session of the Far East Association for Economic Cooperation will open in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on 15 July. The agenda does not include the republican issue.

[Begin Aksenov recording] Actually, our association is called upon to solve not political questions, but economic and social ones. This is why it was created. We would not like to move away from these questions. I think that the faster Moscow understands that this main question of equal rights among members has to be solved, the less political instability our society will have. If this does not happen in the near future, I think that it is possible that many territories, possibly including some of the Far East ones, will consider creating their own republics. [end recording]

A Maritime Kray Soviet session adopted a declaration on the status of the kray last week. The declaration mentions the possibility of establishing a state territorial entity with the rights of a republic.

[Begin recording I.N. Tsvetkov, Khabarovsk Kray soviet chairman] Personally, I do not understand these processes and regard then in a strongly negative way. I believe that this is the first step toward dismantling Russia as a state. Why the first step? If all federation members become republics, republics created on an ethnic basis will not agree with this, and I do not think it impossible that these republics might leave the Russian Federation. Of course, this bomb was planted in 1917. Therefore, I think that, today, the only peaceful and tranquil solution is recognizing the equal rights of federation members. We do not demand state symbols, and we do not want to become presidents or rulers. No, we want to have an economic basis for the development of our own territories. Ten years of experience have proven that it is impossible to rule a country as large as Russia from the center. [end recording]

The value of Russian statehood has been created through the suffering of many generations, and it cannot be sacrificed to the immediate profits of regional interests. Such was the message from the Smolensk Regional Soviet to Russian territorial leaders. It sounds very touching and pretty, but if the concern about Russia falling apart is grounded, so are the arguments of those who see the solution in creating new republics, and in equalizing the rights of Federation members. What is the value of Russian statehood, which has been purchased by centuries of suffering? Is it preserving the imperial pyramid, which has been perpetually perfected by the soviet regime? Then Moscow will continue bossing about Kamchatka fish and Maritime timber, even with the new constitution in place. Is it worth struggling for such a statehood? What for? And what are the immediate profits of regional interests? If one tries to translate this into normal language, one realizes that it means the well-being of people living on their land today. So why resist it? And why is it that the native population of Russia—namely, Russians—have no rights over their own statehood and their own territories, like other people do? It is very important today that anxiety over Russia's collapse does not silence the sensible essence of the idea of creating new Russian republics. It is also very important that nationalistic ambitions do not lead to yet a new surge for more sovereignty, with ethnic republics again striving to be above territorial ones. The development of events today depends on the wisdom of politicians more than at any other time.

[Begin recording] [Voropayev] How close do you think we are to some kind of serious discussion—some kind of real and practical step toward declaring one or several republics here?

[Tsvetkov] Theoretically, I do not exclude the possibility of creating a Far East republic—but only in theory. Again, there must be a condition that unless what we have talked about before is not accepted—I mean equality—then I cannot exclude it. This is a trend. If only one territory had adopted such a decision, it would have been an oddity. Some would laugh, some would criticize or discuss it. But it is no longer an oddity. First one, then a second, then a third, a forth, and a fifth. This is already something else—as they say, the process took off.

[Voropayev] How possible do you think unity in the Far East is?

[Tsvetkov] Of course, I can see a struggle for predominance in this system between two territories: Maritime Kray and Khabarovsk Kray. Of course, if present leaders are wise, and if it ever comes to that, I think that the creation of a single republic is possible. I think that we have the economic basis to survive independently. [end recording]

Rostov Oblast Head on Opposition to Sovereignization

PM2007131393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

["Excerpt" of interview with Rostov Oblast Soviet Chairman Aleksandr Popov by Vadim Ogurtsov in Rostov under "Region" rubric; date not given: "Powers: Take Them, But Observe Due Measure"]

[Text] [Popov] A Ural republic—that is already going too far. You can understand why krays and oblasts are taking necessary powers for themselves, but they need to know the limit. The statement by 40 authorized representatives, which I also signed, is directed precisely against the sovereignization of the regions.

The spark that lit the forest fire was the fact that republics have always had one set of rights within Russia, and krays and oblasts—another. Of a lower order, if I can put it like that. I am not talking now about the titles of officials of the representative and executive branches of power. But the republics have advantages in both politics and economics, such as the right to have their own Constitution, flag, and anthem, and a fairly autonomous economy, including direct foreign economic relations, and can communicate directly with Russia's top leaders, and so forth.

At the same time, Russia's oblasts—in particular Rostov—while far surpassing them economically, are forced to be content with second-class rights. Despite the fact that they contribute extremely substantially to the federal budget from which the existing republics are "fed." Well, is it just?

Therefore, when there was a proposal at the top to write the concept of "sovereign republics within the Russian Federation" into the draft constitution also, kray and oblast representatives evaluated this as an attempt to introduce the previous injustice into the draft of the new constitution as well. The answer, in our view, is to make republics equal in rights with oblasts or krays, while, without question, reserving republics the right to have their own coat of arms, flag, anthem, national language, and the other honors due to its national peculiarities. At the same time, in the name of peace among components and of federal unity, they must renounce the status of "sovereignties."

But when kray and oblast representatives saw that they could not yet, unfortunately, rely on this, first our "statement of the 40" was issued, then followed the counterdemands of Yekaterinburg Oblast and Maritime Kray, which were fairly trenchant in form. I think that our political life will not be limited to these events. Suffice to recall the attempts of regions to unite under the "flag" of the Siberian agreement. I suppose that other oblasts constituting the "cornerstone of the state" may also in the upshot join a Ural Republic. The principles have long been outlined for the unification of the krays, oblasts, and republics of the North Caucasus, including Volgograd and Astrakhan Oblasts. Some representatives of the reviving Cossacks are constantly proposing to proclaim a Don Republic, leaning in this on the historical precedent when—albeit not for long—such a republic was constituted by the young Soviet power directly after the end of the Civil War.

All the same, I do not support the construction of "fences," large or small, between the current federation components. Surely the sad and extremely instructive experience of the CIS is enough, whereby the states belonging to it have been obliged more and more often to sit down at the negotiating table in order to restore political and economic ties that had been torn to shreds? We must all have enough wisdom and civic responsibility to think not so much about national vanities or immediate state benefits as about the fate of Russia, which, even as it is, has already suffered its fill from all manner of rash and frivolous "reorganizations."

North Ossetian Leaders Discuss Situation in Region

LD2007182793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 20 TASS—A meeting of the Security Council of North Ossetia was held under the chairmanship of head of parliament of the republic, Akhsarbek Galazov, in Vladikavkaz on Tuesday [20 July]. Members of the Security Council heard proposals of representatives of District Soviets of People's Deputies on the prolongation of the regime of the state of emergency in the limited zone in North Ossetia. This issue will be submitted for a meeting of a regular session of the Supreme Soviet of the republic.

On Tuesday Viktor Polynichko, head of the temporary administration in the limited zone of the state of emergency regime in the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, met with Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the Security Council of North Ossetia, Georgiy Kantemirov, minister of interior, and Yuriy Bzayev, minister of security. The four discussed the situation in the region.

The North Ossetian representatives told the head of the temporary administration that they would like interaction of peacekeeping forces of Russia with law enforcement bodies and local bodies of power of North Ossetia to be organised more efficiently.

Leningrad Oblast Leaders Demand Economic Aid

PM2007150793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Warning to the Authorities": "Leningraders Lose Their Cool"]

[Text] V. Gustov, chairman of Leningrad Oblast Soviet; A. Belyakov, head of administration; and F. Shkrudnev, the president's representative in the oblast, have warned the Russian Supreme Soviet and government that, unless the federal authorities take measures to ensure the stabilization of the economic situation in the oblast, they will examine the question of changing the oblast's status within the Russian Federation. Evidently they mean forming a republic.

The leaders drew attention to the critical situation prevailing on the oblast's territory following the shift of the burden of the reforms being implemented to regional level and the liberalization of prices for energy sources. One in three industrial enterprises is on the brink of bankruptcy. A catastrophic situation prevails in agriculture. A large downturn in production has been allowed to occur, and the headcount of livestock and poultry has fallen.

The transfer of departmental housing to municipal ownership has not been backed up with funding from the republic budget.

With a view to stabilizing the economy and the financial situation in the oblast in the conditions of transition to market relations, the leaders have demanded the adoption of a government decision committing the Ministry of Finances to providing subsidies in the order of 26.4 billion rubles.

In the view of the authors of the appeal, in order to ease the finiancial situation in the oblast, it is necessary to speed up the ratification of the Russian Federation budget; to fulfill all decrees adopted on the agro-industrial complex, local soviets, housing and utilities, and the social sphere; to stabilize prices for energy sources; and to allocate 800,000 tonnes of feed grain from stocks at half-price [po fondam s 50-protsentnoy kompensatsiyey].

The oblast leaders are demanding that Government Chairman Chernomyrdin visit Leningrad Oblast in order to examine the questions raised.

Alleged Western 'Spy' Arrested in Nizhniy Novgorod

PM2007100393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Litvinenko of CRIME-PRESS: "Spy Caught Through... Embezzlement"]

[Text] During an operational investigation by a group dealing with embezzlement of state property at a Nizhniy Novgorod defense enterprise, staffers at the regional administration for combating organized crime received information to the effect that one of the suspects was showing an unhealthy interest in secret information.

Information about him was passed to the Russian Federation Security Ministry's oblast administration. During a further investigation into the "collector of state secrets" it was established that he was acting on the instructions of a Western foreign intelligence service. The spy has been arrested and an investigation is under way.

International Affairs

Efforts To Repeal Russian Resolution on Sevastopol Viewed

LD2007193593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Ukraine will strive for repeal of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's decision granting Sevastopol city Russian federal status. Mykola Makarevych, Ukraine's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, said this at a briefing today.

He noted that this decision has caused a stormy reaction in Ukraine. Statements have been made by the president, the Supreme Council, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is in New York at the moment. It is holding consultations at the United Nations with the aim of bringing up the issue of the incorrectness of the Russian parliament's decision at a meeting of the UN Security Council. Mykola Makarevych said that all of the highest executive power of Russia, including the president and the head of the government, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have dissociated themselves from the Russian parliament's position. Therefore it is probable that Russia's representative at the United Nations will not torpedo the introduction of this issue on to the agenda.

Mykola Makarevych emphasized that there is neither a political nor a legal basis for the Russian parliament's decision. The point is that, in accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution, Sevastopol is a Ukrainian city of republican jurisdiction. In addition, since 1954 when the Crimea was handed over to Ukraine it has been financed from the Ukrainian budget.

Ukraine's position on this issue, Mykola Makarevych said, has found support from many states, including Germany, Great Britain, the United States, and Canada.

A meeting of the Ukrainian-Russian interparliamentary group has been planned for the near future. It will discuss issues of relations between the two countries.

Delegation Discusses Issue With UNSC

LD2007205593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] A delegation from Ukraine headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, which has arrived in New York, held a series of meetings on 19 July with members of the UN Security Council. The purpose of the meetings was to hold consultations in connection with Ukraine's appeal to hold a sitting of the Security Council regarding the unlawful decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the town of Sevastopol.

Borys Tarasyuk had a meeting with David Hannay of Great Britain, chairman of the Security Council. Earlier a letter was handed to him from the minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine in connection with the unlawful actions of the Russian parliament. After setting forth additional information on this issue, the possibility of it being examined at a sitting of the Security Council was discussed.

The majority of the members of the Security Council have expressed understanding of Ukraine's position, Borys Tarasyuk noted in a conversation with correspondents from various publications, after completing a series of meetings with diplomats.

Germany Regrets Russian Claim

LD2007211593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Federal Government of Germany has expressed regret at the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to change the status of Sevastopol. Claims on the state territory of a neighbor country are an evident violation of principles and obligations within the framework of the Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Respect for the territorial inviolability of all CSCE member countries is the inalienable basis for stability in Europe, the FRG Government statement notes.

Groups Oppose 'Anti-Ukrainian' Actions

LD2107104993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Ukrainian public organizations demand that all those who are inciting interethnic hostility in Crimea should be brought to justice. The Coordinating Council of Ukrainians of Sevastopol, the Prosvita [enlightenment] Society named after Taras Shevchenko, the Sevastopol Company of the Ukrainian Cossacks, the Union of Ukrainian Women, the Rukh cell, the Union of Officers of the Ukrainian Navy, and the Ukrainian Republican Party leadership in Sevastopol have adopted an appeal to the president, the prime minister, and Ukraine's Supreme Council which assesses the recently held so-called people's veche. The appeal says that the speeches by the organizers of the action and the adoption as if by democratic means of a resolution once again confirms the endeavors of the "anti-Ukrainian gathering" to sharpen the situation to a maximum. Calls to "tear up the Ukrainian state symbol," "to raise the St Andrew's flag on combat ships of the Black Sea Fleet," and recommendations by government structures of Russia to "stop giving oil and gas to Ukraine" are evidence of attempts to introduce a "Trans-Dniester option to the disintegration" of the state. The appeal of those who support Ukraine's position on Sevastopol contains demands to immediately bring to justice, in accordance with the law, all those who are attempting to incite interethnic hostility in Crimea and to prohibit the activity of the Sevastopol National Salvation Front and the Republican Crimean Movement. The joint document by Ukrainian civil associations also expresses the expediency of preserving Ukraine's nuclear status as a restraining factor.

Columnist Comments on Health of Russian Sailors

AU2107085193 Kiev UKRAYINSKI OBRIYI in Ukrainian No. 12, Jun 93 p 1

[M. Kharkiv commentary: "Russian Claustrophobes and Dystrophics Guard Ukraine's Sea Borders"]

[Text] According to opinion polls and research, 70 percent of young sailors who were sent by the Russian Federation to serve at the Crimean Naval Base [KVMB] of the Black Sea Fleet do not want to serve on board ships. They are inherently afraid of closed space. Besides, during a medical examination, 17 percent of the Russian citizens called for [military] service were found to be underweight, that is to say, were categorized as dystrophics. In view of this, the KVMB command had to raise their food rations by a factor of one and one-half.

It is now becoming clear why Russia is fighting so vehemently for the Black Sea Fleet. It wants to shift the problem of treating dystrophics off to the famous Ukrainian pork fat.

Italy Helps Republic Produce Currency

LD2007132993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev July 20 TASS—The Italian Government has opened a credit line (loan) valued at 150 billion liras (about $100 million) to the Ukrainian Government to enable it to produce its own money, an urgent need for the republic in conditions of the present economic and financial crisis.

Italian Ambassador to Ukraine Vittorio Surdo said in an interview with the republic's political newspaper PRAVDA UKRAINIY that the interest rate to be paid for the Italian Government loan is much lower than for a similar loan from a common Italian bank.

According to the ambassador, Ukraine will use the loan money to build a special dye factory and a specialized factory which will become part of a structure entrusted with printing Ukrainian national banknotes, passports and other kinds of specialized documents directly in the country.

The deal is beneficial for Italy because Ukraine will buy Italian products and technology and hire Italian specialists, including from the Italian Polygraphic Institute and the Fabian factory which has a solid reputation among similar enterprises in the world.

Kiev To Host East Europe Economic Body

LD2007230293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] With the aim of facilitating the establishment of a socially-oriented market economy in the countries of East Europe by increasing the development of private entrepreneurship and speeding up the integration of Ukraine into the European and world community, the president of Ukraine has, in his instruction of 16 July, supported the initiative of public organizations and representatives of business circles of some foreign states regarding setting up an international non-governmental organization called: A Free Economy in East Europe, and locating its headquarters in Kiev. It is planned to hold the constituent assembly of the new organization in Kiev on 30 July.

National Affairs

Official Confirms Missiles Off Alert for Maintenance

LD2107083093 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev, 20 Jul—The "Itogi" program reported on 18 Jul that 10 nuclear missiles had been taken off alert in Ukraine. This report came from REUTER. A UNIAR correspondent contacted Vasyl Kryuchkov, the chairman of the subcommission for the military-industrial complex and conversion at the Supreme Council commission for defense and state security. He said that 12, and not 10, missiles have been taken off alert for preventive maintenance following the schedule approved by the Defense Ministry at the beginning of the year. All preventive maintenance is being carried out by Ukrainian experts, which has never happened before. The Supreme Council will decide whether to put these missiles back on alert or not. Mr. Kryuchkov says the situation is under control.

Kuchma Adviser Calls For No Confidence in Parliament

LD2107084793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] In an interview with the newspaper VYSOKYY ZAMOK, Taras Stetskiv, people's deputy of Ukraine and adviser to Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma on political issues, called on all residents of Lvov Oblast to express no confidence in the Supreme Council and to immediately begin preparing for the next elections to the parliament. "The president is less of an evil than the Supreme Council," Stetskiv believes. In his opinion, deputies should understand that no confidence in any authority could lead to a situation where there is no authority whatsoever in the country, and a spontaneous uncontrolled disintegration of Ukraine could begin.

Supreme Council Examines Referendum Possibilities

LD2007120793 Kiev UNIAR in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev, 19 Jul [date as received]—The Supreme Council commissions have begun their examination of the Supreme Council legal department's comments with regard to the resolution on holding an all-Ukrainian referendum on confidence or no confidence in the president and Supreme Council of Ukraine. The resolution's preamble says that the law envisages the introduction of two types of referendums, binding and consultative (an advisory poll held to reveal the will of the citizens—Article 46). The Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution of 17 June refers to the second type of referendum.

Clause 2 of the resolution envisages two questions on the ballot paper: on confidence in the president of Ukraine and on confidence in the Supreme Council. According to the legal department's conclusions, this part of the resolution is in full accordance with the legislation.

Clause 3 of the resolution, in the part on calling new presidential elections, contradicts acting legislation as the constitution envisages only four cases for calling new presidential elections: expiry of term, death of the president, impeachment of the president, and the result of a binding all-Ukrainian referendum on the early termination of presidential powers.

If the referendum expresses no confidence in the Supreme Council, it would in fact signify the council's loss of its popular mandate. As the legislation does not envisage the possibility of the parliament's self-dissolution, it can be concluded that a paralysis of the activities of either or both of the Supreme Council and the president would undermine the basis of the government's functioning and thus create a power crisis situation.

The legal department suggests four versions of a decision on the resolution:

1. Revoking the resolution and calling new elections. Such a decision would not question the legitimacy of the Supreme Council and the president and would ensure the continuous functioning of all branches of power. But this would require that certain changes be made to the Constitution.

2. Supporting the president's proposals. This would require that 3 million signatures be raised.

3. Suspending the resolution until the issue of its constitutional status is resolved and preparing proposals on changes to the legislation.

4. Amending the Constitution if the suspension of the resolution proves impossible.

Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch expressed his opinion, noting that as a deputy for Makarov Rayon, he would be in favor of revoking the resolution, passing an electoral law, and calling new elections to the Supreme Council.

Parties Present Positions on Referendum

WS2007120993 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by T. Babych: "There Are as Many Parties as Options"]

[Text] The prospective of the upcoming referendum on confidence in the legislature and the president obliges all existing political parties to formulate their policies—in the most attractive way—on the basis of their own analyses of the current political situation and the possible outcomes of their planned campaigns.

The Socialists consider that the presidential and the legislative authorities have failed, and therefore they are going to agitate against both. The Conservative Republicans are sure that the Supreme Council still has some abilities to survive until the next spring, but that local councils and the president should be ousted immediately. The Democratic Party believes that the referendum will not solve the social crisis, but it will weaken the authorities and even worsen the unrest. So the Democrats propose to cancel the referendum, elect local authorities until the end of the year, at the beginning of the next year elect a new legislature, and let the president hold the office until the end of his term.

A few days ago, the leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] held a news conference on such issues. Given the increased activity of anti-state and anti-Ukrainian forces that—in the party's opinion—are trying to encroach on Ukrainian territorial integrity, reestablish the soviet authorities, reinstate the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic symbols, and reintroduce the socialist economy, the party's leadership demands the cancellation of the Supreme Council powers, and believes that it is no longer capable of adopting any serious decisions. The party also proposes that the president be retained as a guarantor of the state integrity and stability. It was even said at the news conference that a "better president will not be elected anyway."

When it comes to a new election, (there is no doubt it will be needed after the referendum), electoral law and decrees regulating the structure of the authorities should be adopted before the election. Without that, a future legislature will look the same as the present one. But to do so, on the other hand, a new constitution is needed.

The negative result of the referendum's presidential issue, according to A. Shybik, the deputy-chief of the URP, poses a major threat to society, because in such a case, executive committees will be created to fill the gap in the executive authorities.

At the journalists's request, the party's leadership discussed the preparations for the referendum, beginning from the creation of political coalitions with other parties and ending with the training of candidates. The URP's officials also intend to disband local councils, first of all in Lvov and Ternopil Oblasts where they have already had some successes.

Socialist Party Calls For Fight Against Corruption

WS2007133193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Socialist Party of Ukraine Political Council's Open Letter"]

[Text] An analysis of the latest political and social events and their development shows that certain political circles inside and outside Ukraine are interested in preventing a strong Ukrainian state from appearing on the political map of the world, the Socialist Party of Ukraine Political Council's open letter reads. It has been addressed to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, political parties, trade unions, public organizations, religious leaders, and Ukrainian citizens.

The letter points out that it would be premature to assume that those circles are acting in a deliberate manner, but there is no doubt that such activities are conducive to achieving the mentioned goals.

We urgently propose to reevaluate and execute the plans to prevent an economic disaster and to reshape the government as the only way to save the state's economic basis, underlines the Political Council. It is necessary to form in due time a Constitutional Court that will assure public justice, and to undertake steps determined to fight thuggery, corruption, and speculation. We demand compliance with the constitution and the outlawing of activities of illegal military units. We again insist on including the issue on constitutional order on the referendum, which will help establish a strong state and protect the interests of the working people.

Naval Commander Views Tasks, Future of Navy

AU2007142993 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Jul 93 p 2

["Topical" interview with Vice Admiral Borys Kozhyn by MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent Volodymyr Prytula: "I Am Responsible for the Ukrainian Fleet"; place and date of interview not given]

[Text] [Prytula] Mr. Admiral, first of all, I would like to congratulate the command and all the sailors of Ukraine's Naval Force with the hoisting of [Ukrainian] flags and with the commissioning of two warships, which, I think, will look quite presentable in the Mediterranean or other regions.

[Kozhyn] Thanks for the congratulations. I will say that both the MDK "Donets" and the patrol combatant "Hetman Sahaydachnyy" will represent, with dignity, Ukraine's naval glory at any point of the World Ocean. I would also like to thank the shipbuilders of Kiev, Kerch, Feodosiya, and Nikolayev who build such wonderful high-standard ships, with the help of which the Ukrainian Navy will defend the Ukrainian state's southern marine borders.

[Prytula] Mr. Admiral, what are the Ukrainian Naval Forces like today?

[Kozhyn] The Ukrainian Naval Forces are presently in the stage of formation. Precisely now, we are creating the first Ukrainian formation of surface ships. For the time being, it includes four ships, and several others are on their way, including the guided missile cruiser of "Slava" type. Quite a number of ships are being assembled at shipbuilding plants within the framework of Ukraine's shipbuilding program: ASW [anti-submarine warfare], patrol combatant ships, ships with dynamic support (surface effect ships), hydrofoil ships, and large cruisers. Programs for building submarines and trailer forces are presently being elaborated. In particular, we have formed and brought up to strength a naval infantry battalion and proceeded to further creation of the shore defense forces.

[Prytula] Mr. Commander, at the recent session of the Sevastopol City Council, deputies of a certain orientation asserted that the creation of some subdivisions of Ukraine's Naval Forces is illegal. What do you think in this connection?

[Kozhyn] We only act in conformity with the norms of international law and our legislation. For us, the main document is, first and foremost, the Act of Declaration of Ukrainian Independence and the Presidential Edict on the Formation of the Ukrainian Naval Forces. Incidentally, the edict was signed long before the division of functions between the Crimean and Ukrainian organs of power. Besides, the command regularly informs the leadership of the Crimean Supreme Council about all changes in the Naval Forces. We are in our own land and only act in conformity with the laws of our state.

[Prytula] What are the interrelations between the Naval Forces and local authorities?

[Kozhyn] I think that, in general, our relations with local power structures may be called good. In most cases, when we turn to them, we do get support. Both presidential representative in Sevastopol I. Yermakov and chairman of the City Council V. Semenov take part in the work of our Military Council. However, we would certainly prefer a better understanding of our problems and of our role.

[Prytula] Mr. Admiral, I cannot help touching upon the problems of the Black Sea Fleet. Please comment upon the recent events in it.

[Kozhyn] You know, I would not like to meddle with somebody else's sphere. Ukraine's Naval Forces are subordinated to me. I am their commander, I am responsible for them, and I may give any explanation of their problems. The Black Sea Fleet has its own commander. He is the one to comment upon all the events and he is answerable for them.

[Prytula] The last question. Borys Borysovych, this year, for the first time, we will mark the Day of the Ukrainian Fleet. Tell us what kind of holiday it is going to be.

[Kozhyn] Yes, during the first Sunday of August, we will celebrate the Day of the Ukrainian Naval Forces. I hope that this holiday will really become nationwide. We invited guests from all over Ukraine to take part in it. We are planning the arrival of numerous folklore collectives that will perform on- board ships, in military units, and in the streets of Sevastopol. A big gala concert is also planned, a meeting with guests, a sea cruise on board the patrol combatant "Hetman Sahaydachnyy," a football match between Ukraine's Olympic team and Sevastopol's "Chayka" [Seagull], and other festive undertakings. I think that the celebration will be a success, and Ukrainian sailors have deserved it. Incidentally, the approval by our state's Supreme Council of a Ukrainian naval flag would be a good present to mark it.

Lugansk 'State of Emergency' in Oil Sphere

LD2107091993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Lugansk—Eduard Khananov, presidential representative for the oblast, has issued an instruction on introducing a state of emergency in the region concerning oil provision. The document notes that no oil reached the Lisichansk oil refinery in June, according to state orders. Deliveries in July are also under enormous doubt. In connection with this, it was decided to channel all fuel and lubricant resources to ensure harvesting work in agricultural rayons.

Company Utilizes Methane as Automobile Fuel

AU2107110193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Jul 93 p 5

[Yu. Dotsenko report: "Methane Is Turning the Wheel"]

[Text] Near the source of the Kalmius River, in the vicinity of the village of Yakivlivka, in Yasynovata Rayon, there is a well, which is unusual even for the Donbass coal mining industry. It is precisely there, for the first time in our country's practice, that coal beds are degassed and methane is collected to be later used as fuel for automobiles.

The problem of utilizing explosive gas began to be tackled by the "Donetskvuhillya" Production Association several years ago. Life itself dictated this, because methane is a major cause of explosions and fires in mines' drifts and workings, disasters that lead to suffering and death.... People waged war against methane as effectively as they could: The dangerous gas was expelled from mines into the atmosphere—20 billion cubic meters or more into the air.

"We began working for utilizing methane as fuel for engines one year ago," comments Oleksandr Puhachenko, deputy technical director of "Donetskvuhillya." "Scientists from the Makiyivka Scientific Research Institute have rendered us great assistance. We now daily fill about a dozen automobiles, mainly those belonging to the mine, with methane. Of course, we could open even more methane stations but we do not have the corresponding equipment for that. We cherish a hope that all interested sides will render us assistance....

Correction to Kuchma Appeal to Agricultural Workers

LD2007220393

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Kuchma Makes Appeal to Agricultural Workers" published in the 19 July Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, beginning on page 48:

Page 49, column one, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...been supplied with 260,000 tonnes of grain.... (correcting figure)

same page, same paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...we shall have 14.5 million tonnes under the.... (supplying missing word "million")

Belarus

Shushkevich's U.S. Visit Begins; Agenda Detailed

WS2107100493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Today, an official visit of Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich to the Unites States commences. The agenda of the three-day visit is quite full. In addition to the talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, senators, congressmen, businessmen, and bankers, a number of other meetings, including consultations with the speaker of the House of Representatives, secretaries of defense and commerce, the World Bank vice-president, and the International Monetary Fund president is planned. Belarusian delegation members will also hold talks and meetings at the International Scientific Fund, the Library of Congress, the State Department, the Academy of Sciences, the World Bank, and the U.S. Information Agency. A number of agreements will be signed.

Top Defense, Legal Officials Examine Pilfering in Military

WS2107065693 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Bezveselnyy: "Pilferers in Uniforms]

[Text] The first joint session of the Defense Ministry and the General Prosecution Collegiums recently took place. The members of the Collegiums; administration and central apparatus chiefs; the army commander; commanders of corps, combined units, and brigades; and garrison military prosecutors were invited to take part in the session.

The session was opened by Colonel General P. Kozlovskiy, Collegium's chairman and Belarusian defense minister. He said that this meeting was prompted by the need to examine the urgent measures intended to enhance the efficiency of laws regulating military property. Unfortunately, despite all measures taken by Defense Ministry senior officials, pilfering and embezzlement of everything that might be of interest—weapons and ammunition, fuels and lubricants, uniforms and foodstuffs—has not been foiled.

In his report, A. Dovbysh, a ranking official from the Republic's General Prosecutor office, pointed to the inefficiency of the work conducted in the military to prevent pilfering government property, which results in considerable losses. To substantiate this statement, he cited some examples. In the past year alone, the military lost 63.8 million rubles [R]; and in the first quarter of this year, it incurred R25 million in losses caused by the embezzlement of military property. The losses almost doubled in the next two months—the embezzlement of property soared 2.5-fold; that of trucks and automobiles and rocket and artillery materiel doubled; while the embezzlement of fuels, lubricants, and food grew 1.5-fold. Obviously, the Belarusian Defense Ministry as well as the Republic's civilian and military General Prosecution offices are seriously alarmed by this situation.

Is there any solution for this? In the opinion of A. Dovbysh, it can be found. First, commanders at all levels should obtain more powers to prevent the pilfering and embezzling of state property as well as greater responsibility for enforcing property laws and manuals. Second, inspections and checks in the combat units must be conducted strictly according to the schedule, and if need be, without notice. Third, more consideration should be given to selecting personnel handling the property; the staffing and training policies should be improved. Also, a very important thing is the proper technical maintenance of military depots, storage units, and facilities. Undoubtedly, very much depends on the correct organization of guard and internal duties in the units, because sentinels themselves are frequently involved in pilfering.

Another report was delivered by Lieutenant General N. Churkin, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Armed Forces. In addition, the meeting was attended by V. Kondratyev, first deputy of the General Prosecutor; G. Danilov, a senior official from the Council of Ministers; and L. Privalov, deputy chief of the legislative commission for the issues of national security, defense, and crime-combating.

A relevant resolution was adopted on the issue in question. All of the participants concurred in the following opinion: only a concerted effort directed at combating pilfering and embezzlement of the military property can bloc the channels through which this property leaves the Army and result in an improvement of the situation.

Opposition Leader Criticizes Shushkevich's Referendum Strategy

WS2107065393 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 13 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with Social Democratic Assembly Chairman Oleg Trusov, by BELAPAN correspondent Viktar Dzyatlikovich: "Stanislav Shushkevich Had a Chance To Lobby the Referendum Issue;" place and date not given]

[Text] [Dzyatlikovich] How do you assess the behavior of the Supreme Soviet during the discussion of the referendum issue?

[Trusov] In my opinion, Stanislav Shushkevich has wasted his last chance to become the leader of a broad opposition. He has again demonstrated the lack of a consistent policy. He has demonstrated that he is not a real politician capable of winning support from a certain political force. By the way, we had no doubts about this. I think that the opposition made the right decision when it refused to take part in the farce of removing Shushkevich, and, at the same time, it did not express confidence in him. I believe that the recent events are not the worst thing that might have occurred. This is a good lesson for those citizens who believed in a "good czar," who believed that this was the only person capable of saving the situation due to his centrist views.

[Dzyatlikovich] Could the chairman find any other solution to the situation?

[Trusov] Undoubtedly, he could. It was up to him whether or not to accept the opposition's proposal regarding the second issue on the agenda. However, with regard to his own variant of the question to be posed at the referendum, he should have been firm to the end. He should have put this issue to a roll call vote. Even if 100 deputies had voted for the referendum, they would not have allowed the session to close. If the session had not closed, we would have approached the referendum issue. More than 100 different deputies signed the motion on the necessity to hold a referendum on this issue. Thus, if Shushkevich had been a real politician, he would have won this round. However, he preferred following the majority. The same majority will vote for his resignation the first thing at the fall session.

[Dzyatlikovich] By the way, if the issue of Shushkevich's resignation is brought forward again, will the opposition support him?

[Trusov] We will judge by the political situation. I cannot give a full guarantee that we will support Shushkevich this fall. If the situation changes, I do not rule out that we will suggest as chairman someone who will meet our demands.

[Dzyatlikovich] Are the democratic parties, including the Social Democratic Assembly, going to launch a campaign to collect signatures demanding the referendum?

[Trusov] Absolutely not. We cannot repeat what has already been done. Our strategy is how to force the Supreme Soviet to adopt the decisions that suit us, without holding a referendum. I believe we will be able to achieve this. The economy will make the Supreme Soviet act this way. By the end of the year, Russia will introduce world prices of power resources and our economy will be immediately paralyzed. It is only natural that if a crowd of 100,000 people rally in the Independence square, the legislature will adopt anything in the world, including a new constitution and a decision to hold a referendum.

[Dzyatlikovich] How do you assess the results of the session?

[Trusov] We managed to adopt the law on private land ownership at this session. Notwithstanding the resistance of the majority, we managed to adopt the law on personal privatization vouchers. We did not allow legislative and executive powers to be concentrated in one body—the attempt to subordinate the Committee of State Security to the Council of Ministers fell flat. This demonstrates that we managed to do much with limited resources.

Cause of Intelligence Chief's Death Debated

PM1907141193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[RID report: "Did Belarusian Intelligence Chief Commit Suicide?"]

[Text] Colonel Mikhail Zhukovets, chief of the Belarusian KGB's Foreign Intelligence Directorate, died tragically in Minsk at 0200 hours on 14 July. He fell from the 10th floor of a block on the Nemiga, where he lived with his family. According to reports from the RID agency, people knowledgeable about such things think that it is too soon to draw any conclusions, and far too soon to state whether it was an accident, a suicide, or a violent death...

The accident theory is believable solely because Mikhail Zhukovets is known to have taken part in a large party with colleagues before his death. But even severely intoxicated it would not be so easy to topple over the more than meter-high balcony railings. The republic's foremost intelligence officer had no health complaints. Nor was there any reason for the chief of the first directorate to take his own life.

A violent death? If so, it is to be hoped that an answer to the question "why" will not be slow in coming...

PRC Military Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD2007210293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] It is evident that not only NATO countries, whose military inspectors almost daily monitor our sites in accordance with the treaty, but also military departments of more distant countries are showing interest in the young Belarusian Army. This is proved by the arrival in Minsk for talks of a Chinese military delegation headed by Major General Fu Jiaping, director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the PRC Ministry of National Defense. During four days of meetings and consultations, the Chinese military intend to discuss the development of serious relations between our nations and of fruitful contacts between the armed forces, and also define the forms and directions of such cooperation. The talks started today and will last until 23 July.

Slovene Delegation Arrives for Trade Talks

LD1907200493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] A delegation headed by Mr. Peterle, deputy chairman of parliament and deputy prime minister of the Republic of Slovenia, arrived in Minsk today on an official visit. Lojze Peterle and his entourage were received by Vyachaslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Belarus. They discussed issues of mutual interest in the sphere of internal and external politics of both countries and prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation. In particular, stress was placed on expanding trade and economic links between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Slovenia.

Moldova

Snegur Appeals for Accelerated Economic Reforms

PM2007130593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Prices of All Types of Output Set Free in Moldova"]

[Text] Chisinau—According to Moldovan President M. Snegur, inflation, which stood at 1,500 percent in Moldova last year, could reach the same level this year if "a temporizing stand continues to be taken." In his appeal to the people the president noted the need to accelerate economic reforms, and he described the situation in which it has ended up as a "moment of complex trials."

In Moldova, whose industry is lagging badly behind the pre-crisis period and where "sectors such as construction and transportation have ended up on the verge of collapse," while production indicators in livestock raising are "falling particularly quickly—which casts doubt on this sector's very existence," the population remains disastrously poor. Workers and employees will be able to receive the minimum wage, which has been raised from 3,000 to 7,000 rubles [R], only in one month's time, but meanwhile goods have already become more expensive. In Chisinau stores today, one kilogram of butter can be obtained for R4,000, one kilogram of sausages for R2,000-5,000, and meat for R1,000-2,000. The government has issued one more decree, setting free the purchase prices of dairy products and grain. Although stores are still selling milk and bread at the old prices, it is not known for how long the government will be able to keep this umbrella over prime necessities, subsidizing them out of its own budget.

Expecting an increase in prices, the population is sweeping everything from the counters, forming kilometer-long lines outside bread and milk stores.

"It is perfectly clear," the Moldovan president remarked, "that hyperinflation is to a large measure being imported along with grain and energy resources from the CIS states, since alternative sources of them have not yet been found." The Moldovan leadership sees the way out of this situation in "creating an attractive system for foreign investors." It is possible to count on success, in the president's opinion, by "ensuring the necessary conditions for providing and protecting investments—conditions which are even more favorable by comparison with other postcommunist countries."

Views Economic Decline, Foreign Ties

AU2107083193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 19/7/1993—According to a report by the State Department for Statistics, the national income decreased by 20.2 percent for the first half of 1993, if compared with the level which had been achieved during the same period of time of the last year. Such a decrease was equal to 34 percent in agriculture. Industrial product registered an insignificant increase, equal to 0.9 percent, which is in itself quite illusory on account of that it was obtained due to an exaggerated price sky- rocketing. The trend of decreasing economic rhythms is still persisting. The situation in Moldova will aggravate during this year and periods of time of stabilisation will be short term and episodic, stated experts from the Centre of Market Problems Research. It seems that the Government from Chisinau remains reluctant to multiple problems which society is now facing. "Recently, all events acquired a dramatic character, so they need a very serious examination with firm and even rigour, in some cases, resolutions," declared President Snegur in his speech at the national radio and television. He also added that production decline can have "serious and even unpredictable consequences, including compromising independence and sovereignty of the republic." Economic observers pointed the fact that Snegur exposed one more time to vehement criticism the "unthought policy of preferential credits." This policy was supported by the executive body, especially, the Ministry of Economy and correspondingly of Agriculture and Food Products. Snegur also criticised the lack of "a more or less definite concept" of foreign economic relations, "non-exploration of collaboration space" with Romania, particularly within the area of economic integration [passage indistinct]. Interior problems left undiscovered those problems regarding the adherence to the Economic community of the CIS. President Snegur's position seems to be quite clear in this connection [passage indistinct]. He did not deny an eventual adherence of the Republic of Moldova to the supposed Economic Community of the CIS. Independent trade unions from Moldova also plead for this option. From another perspective, opposition qualifies this step as an attempt to revive the former Union.

Snegur's Visit to Romania Detailed

AU2007202993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1806 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 20/7/1993—"After Romania recognized the independence of Moldova, the relations between the two states should be regulated, for their higher efficiency, on the basis of the principles of international law," stated Valeriu Ciubotaru, director of the Moldovan president's cabinet, at a press conference organized today. The cooperation treaty between Moldova and Romania will be elaborated taking into account these principles, the quoted source added. While referring to the feature of specificity of this treaty, mentioned by some journalists, Ciubotaru stated that this was easy to understand due to the character of the two states "qualified as Romanian ones." This document cannot be distinguished from other ones, signed by Moldova with various states. Ion Botnaru, Moldovan first vice minister of foreign affairs, stated the treaty's name doesn't matter: a treaty of cooperation and fraternity or just of cooperation. The essence of the document is actually important. Adrian Nastase, chairman of the Lower Chamber of the Romanian Parliament, had stated previously that "Romania cannot accept a formula of treaty which would be like the treaties Moldova signed with any other countries; to have a sense, this treaty must have a specificity." Concerning the activity of the three-party mechanism as an alternative to the four-party one for solving the Dniester conflict, Mr. Ciubotaru stated "the mechanism of the three must not indispensably replace the four-party one; it is necessary to augment stability in this European region." he stressed that if the four-party mechanism cares more about Dniesterian problems, it is naturally that the three-party one strives for consolidation in the entire zone, where an influence of borders exists.

Details on Rockets Detected at Ungheni Border Point

AU2107083093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Ungheni, BASAPRESS 19/7/1993—Reliable sources who had been questioned by a BASAPRESS reporter about details concerning rocket armament detected at the customs point in Ungheni several weeks ago, affirmed that six rockets are being kept in this place and the case is not being researched. According to the same sources, the rockets are retracted in a container having a capacity of 20 tonnes and each of them are 8 meters long. Precise data about the presence of explosive charges could not be detected. Documents which accompanied these arms clarified that consignee stay on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Being questioned to refer on this matter, the chief of regional section of the National Security Ministry from Ungheni, declared that he is informed only from news broadcast previously by Chisinau radio station. On the 5 July, the National Radio from Moldova broadcast an information according to which the customs point from Ungheni detected two "ground-to-ground" rockets in a container which arrives from Russia and were destined to one of the parties implied in Yugoslavian conflict.

NATO Delegation Head Discusses Dniester

AU2107083293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 19/7/1993—"The Dniester conflict is political, not inter-ethnical. It is the type of conflict usually happening in all the new democracies in ex-socialist countries. I realised this fact better since I came to Moldova," stated Brigitte Schultz, leader of the delegation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, during a press conference organized today. In the solving of this conflict, the solution must come from the Moldovan Government. This solution should be political, denying the usage of weapons, the quoted source added. Referring to the chances for Moldova to become member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Mrs. Schultz stated she had addressed the head of this Assembly a report regarding the possibility for the CIS states to be admitted as members. Moldova's situation in this question is to be discussed at the return of the delegation. "It is very bad when a part of the nation demands a compensation from the majority, while solving a problem. Personally, I don't believe this part of the population can keep the economy on its track and I don't believe such organism as the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank could be attracted by separatists," stated the head of the delegation, concerning the Dniester problem. Referring to the Tiraspol trial, Brigitte Schultz stressed that the Ilascu group should have the right for justice. "In my country this trial wouldn't be considered as legal," stated that quoted source. Representatives of the delegation did not have any meeting with leader of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, since Comrat had not reacted to the delegation's request for such a meeting, as it was also mentioned at the press conference.

Kazakhstan

Government 'Ready' To Transfer Nuclear Technology to India

LD2007181093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Bulantsev]

[Text] New Delhi July 20 TASS—Kazakhstan is ready to transfer to India its technology to develop nuclear-powered engines for spacecraft and is interested in the development of cooperation with India in the field of nuclear research, according to visiting Deputy Prime Minister Galym Abilsiitov who is leading a delegation from the Government of Kazakhstan to talks with Indian leaders on the establishment and development of bilateral business partnership in various spheres.

Addressing a meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries, the deputy prime minister stressed that scientists in Kazakhstan are experienced specialists in designing safe nuclear power plants and storage facilities for radio-active materials. The UNI News Agency quoted him as saying that Kazakhstan could transfer this technologies to other countries. Kazakhstan is rich in uranium and other rare metals which local experts have learned to re-work into oxides necessary for nuclear power engineering.

The Indian Government and private firms can get this technology or purchase these materials, the deputy prime minister of Kazakhstan added.

Galym Abilsiitov said India could also use on regular basis the Baykonur Space Centre "for launching satellites, boosters and spaceships".

The cosmodrome is located on Kazakh territory but is now occupied by the Armed Force of the Russian Federation. "We intend to convert this military enterprise into a civilian space research centre," Abilsiitov said.

Nazarbayev Departure for Bangkok Reported

LD2007105593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] President Nazarbayev and his wife left for Bangkok today on a three-day official visit. He is accompanied by Syzdyk Abishev, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign economic relations; Nurtay Abykayev, head of the president's and the cabinet's administrations; Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov; Industry Minister Albert Salamtin; Vyacheslav Chernov, head of the Semey Oblast [Semipalatinsk] administration; and writer Abdizhamil Nurpeyisov. The delegation was seen off at the Almaty airport by Vice President Yerik Asanbayev, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, Supreme Kenges Deputy Chairman Khayrolla Yerezhepov, and other officials.

Seeks Economic Cooperation

LD2007155693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zatsepin]

[Text] Bangkok July 20 TASS—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev today arrived in Bangkok for a three-day official visit. During his stay in Thailand he will discuss opinions with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on bilateral relations and regional and international problems of mutual interest. Special attention will be given to economic cooperation, says a report on the visit of Kazakhstan's president.

Nazarbayev and his party will also visit the industrial complex and commercial port Laem Chabang, enterprises of the oil refining industry and other industrial and financial centres in the capital and neighbouring provinces.

Thailand whose economy largely depends of the import of oil shows interest in the oil resources of its new Asian partner. Preliminary negotiations on possible cooperation in oil extraction have already been held by the two countries. Going by statements of representatives of the government agency of the petroleum industry, Thailand may purchase oil from Kazakhstan and supply Kazakhstan with various farm produce in return.

Stresses Importance of Asian Ties

LD2007115493 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Kazakh 0605 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by unidentified correspondent from the Kazakhstani television Sharayna program; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You begin familiarizing yourself with a region which is so little known about and unfamiliar to our state. You begin this familiarization with the Kingdom of Thailand in particular. What is behind such a choice?

[Nazarbayev] First of all, we received an invitation from the king and prime minister of Thailand long ago. It should be taken into account that among such new developing countries as South Korea, Thailand, and Singapore, Thailand is a country which is—so to speak—trying a tiger's hide on. Next in a row. Its development starting from the 1970's great revival. The experience of following the way of those young oriental tigers is very important to us. It is a very quickly developing state, the expertise of which is very valuable for us. We need good relations with the Asian region, our neighbors. My initiative on the conference on measures for building confidence in Asia included. We should pursue this line. We have broad economic relations with Thailand currently. This country wants to render both technical and financial aid significant for our development. I think that documents which are prepared for signing will be beneficial for both sides. Australia will be next. We have also a lot in common with it as it is a raw materials country as well. Our [words indistinct] will go there and next visits to this region will be Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. I am going to visit China this year. We must establish the best relations with our Asian environment as well as with all others. This will by all means promote improvement of relations of our Commonwealth with the Asian region.

Delegation Signs Transport Memorandum With Turkey

LD1907161693 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Talks between the delegation of Kazakhstan and the minister of transport and communications of Turkey were held in Ankara. A memorandum of mutual understanding was signed. Top priority will be given to the Trans-Asian railway Beijing-Almaty-Tashkent-Teheran-Ankara-Istanbul in order to broaden trade, economic, and cultural cooperation of the Asian countries. Turkey will supply railway passenger cars to Kazakhstan. In the near future, cargo forwarding will be organized under a special permit system to carry consignments between Kazakhstan and Turkey. Cargo and passenger freights are expected to be organized in the Black Sea under the flag of Kazakhstan.

Cabinet Examines 'Negative Trends' in Economy

LD2007155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 20 Jul 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Almaty July 20 TASS—In the first six months of this year negative trends predominated in the national economy of Kazakhstan. The government failed to slow down the rates of production recession practically in all its branches. This unconsoling conclusion was made by the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan which at its meeting today considered the results of the social and economic development of the republic in the first six months of 1993.

Gross social product fell by one quarter as compared with the same period last year. The volume of industrial output also went down by 25 percent. Enterprises did not deliver to consumers 8.9 billion rubles' worth of products. Workers extracting coal, oil and gas, workers of the non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, as well as the chemical and oil chemical industry, and the machine building complex were particularly indebted to consumers.

The production of the main products of livestock breeding continue to reduce. At the same time farmers expect a good harvest. The southern regions of Kazakhstan have already begun reaping and thresh 17-18 centners of grain per hectare, which corresponds to the last year's level.

Rise in prices for fuel in January and May of 1993 gave new impetus to the inflationary process. An average monthly rise in prices on the whole in the republic exceeded 30 percent. In the first six months of 1993 an additional emission of money into circulation was 391 billion rubles which was 21.9 times more than in the same months of 1992.

According to participants in the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, an analysis of the state of the economy and prognosis estimates of the social and economic development of the republic gives all grounds to presume that the factors bringing about the crisis of the national economy, will continue to act until the end of this year.

Educational Complex Established for Space Research

LD2107095893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Feodor Ignatiev]

[Text] Alma Ata July 21—An educational complex is being set up at the international space school of Baykonur launching site in Kazakhstan.

Director General of Kazakhstan National Space Agency Cosmonaut Tokhtar Aubakirov told TASS that space research would be the main training programme at the new institute. He thinks that the unique scientific and technical base of the cosmodrome and a great number of highly skilled personnel will make it possible to tackle the task successfully.

Tajikistan

Border Situation, International Aid Viewed

Rakhmanov Appeals For End to Attacks

LD2007200593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has appealed to the people of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. We draw your attention to the speech by the head of our state, Imamali Rakhmanov:

[Begin Rakhmanov recording] Esteemed fathers and mothers, dear brothers and sisters. At this sensitive time I appeal to you and to your wisdom. As our forefathers would say: Everyone makes his own destiny. It was exactly this which led (?our people) to resolutely determine the path to building a law-governed democratic and secular state, and which brought the present legitimate order to power.

If we impartially evaluate the activity of the government, one can hardly fail to see that a lot of work has been done in a short time. The most important of all was an end to the war of fratricide. The people breathed a sigh of relief and engaged themselves in work. However this air of tranquillity did not suit the so-called protectors of the nation who by their deeds have made themselves homeless. In fact, stability in society accelerates their political death. That is why these so-called patriotic fathers of the nation are arming new groups, whether by force or persuasion or by deceit and deception, and send them to the border from abroad. Don't they know that they are sending these youths, who are from their own people and co-religionists, to certain death? They know, but for them war and killing are necessary. Do they care about the people? Never! They [words indistinct] will not even refrain from shedding the blood of thousands of innocent people.

I can state with full responsibility that the people of Tajikistan and the state of Tajikistan are not alone. We will not let any force, however slight, whether internal or external, harm our people. Moreover, we have agreements with the CIS states and they too will not leave us alone.

At the instigation and conspiracy of murderers, for several days the situation on the borders and in a number of regions including Tavildara has been unstable. It is only to prevent convoys of vehicles carrying goods from entering Badakhshan. An armed group attacked government forces who were protecting a convoy. As a result a number of people were killed and injured. I am very sad at the deaths of these young people and the responsibility rests fully with the murderers.

Dear compatriots, I would like to remind you that despite insistence by the relevant authorities, the Supreme Soviet and the government resolved not to deploy armed forces on the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. The government of the oblast undertook to ensure peace and security and implementation of the decree by the Supreme Soviet Presidium on disarmament. The oblast authorities are taking firm steps in this direction. In addition, during my trip to the city of Khorog, I witnessed the full support of the people of Badakhshan for the legitimate government of the republic. However, it is only because of one armed group that the noble people of Badakhshan are still desiring peace. The road to the oblast is still closed. It is the only reason that convoys of vehicles carrying foodstuffs, medicines, and other essential goods cannot reach the oblast's territory.

It is obvious that the Dushanbe-Khorog road will only be open for another two months before the winter sets in. If, during this period, we fail to supply foodstuffs and other goods the situation will be extremely bad for people during the winter.

Taking this into account the government of the republic adopted a resolution on priority measures to stabilize the economic and sociopolitical situation of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. However, implementation of this resolution is being held back due to the fault of the armed groups.

I have said this many times and I again repeat that Badakhshan is an integral and inseparable part of the Republic of Tajikistan. No one is allowed—(?and the people will never allow)—anyone to look down on this land. The noble people of the oblast should be assured that the republic's leadership is constantly seeking to improve their living standards. We will be taking all measures to achieve this aim. However, there is one thing which we do not want to see and that is the shedding of the blood of people .

I, as head of state, assure you that we will definitely resolve all outstanding problems, especially the problem of refugees. However, this process also closely depends on you. That is why I appeal to you: The time has come to distinguish between enemies and friends. Tell your sons that continuation of war will bring untold calamity to all the people.

I appeal to all armed men: Abandon this meaningless war, lay down your arms! Border violations, stealing, plundering, and murder cannot make people remain indifferent. No one can forgive and allow the (?crime) of politically and economically blockading a large oblast, (?threatening) the people of the oblast with hunger.

Dear compatriots, we believe that peace and tranquillity will soon be restored in our united Tajikistan. (?Whether this will happen soon) without bloodshed and loss of life depends on each one of us. Let everyone of us think about this and take part in this. Thank you. [end recording]

Asks Media To Combat Misinformation

LD2007142793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, held talks yesterday evening with editors of republican newspapers and the heads of the State Committee for Radio and Television, the Khovar information center, and the press centers of some departments.

The head of state spoke about the events which took place on 13 July at the 12th border post. He also spoke about the joint measures by the leaders of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation to strengthen the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border, the situation in Badakhshan Oblast and Tavildara Rayon, and the views of the world community on those events.

Imamali Rakhmanov said that there are some outside forces and mass media which are one-sidedly and maliciously interpreting the events on the border and the relations between Tajikistan and the CIS and foreign states. He also said that they are doing all this at the instruction of some specific circles.

It was stated that the mass media should be informing the people in time and factually about events in the Republic. They should also give a fitting reply to false reports in the foreign media and in the radio programs of the opposition forces, who are painting a false picture of events in Tajikistan from outside.

Prime Minister on Strengthening Border

LD2007154193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We do not intend to tolerate acts of aggression of whatever kind from Afghanistan any longer, it was stated at a press conference today by Tajikistan Republic Prime Minister Abdullodzhanov. He stressed, however, that by all accounts Kabul officialdom has still not drawn the proper conclusions from the situation that has emerged on the Tajik-Afghan border, and so we are taking a number of measures to prevent a repetition of the events of 12 July. Active operations, including fortifications, are under way to strengthen the borders, and second and third lines of defense are being created along the border.

As regards the situation in the republic itself, according to Abdullodzhanov the government of Tajikistan has the situation under control throughout its territory. Replying to a question on the possibility of talks with the armed opposition Tajik groups, the premier spoke in no uncertain terms against any cooperation with people who are up to their arms in blood, as he put it.

Foreign Minister Seeks Help

LD2007142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1250 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov has called on the world community to take urgent steps to end armed acts of provocation along the Republic's border with Afghanistan. The minister told ITAR-TASS by telephone that the tense situation on the border required emergency steps to avert "escalation of armed clashes into a full-scale conflict which can spread beyond the confines of one country".

Rashid Olimov thinks it most important "to see the situation in the region impartially". This is what prompted a resolution of the Presidium of the Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet to send a special appeal to the United Nations Security Council in order to draw the attention of the world community to the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The appeal circulated in the United Nations on Tuesday says that Afghan Army units are involved in border clashes despite the Afghan leaders' statements to the contrary.

The Afghan leaders insist that only "opposition forces" are taking part in acts of provocation along the border with Tajikistan. Official Kabul has taken no steps to prevent the use of the country's north as the bridgehead to launch terrorist attacks by gangs which threaten the lives of Russian border troops and inhabitants of the border areas, the minister charged.

"We have information that unmarked aircraft often take loads of what is by far not humanitarian aid cargo to Afghanistan", he said and proposed sending U.N. military observers to the border areas in question.

The minister stressed that Russian border troops have never been the first to open fire, and added: "We consider it quite necessary and justified the measures which are now being taken to defend the border".

Rashid Olimov pointed out that Afghan actions which are doing harm to friendly relations between the Tajik and Afghan peoples and the dialogue between the states in the region aimed at normalizing and stabilizing the situation must be terminated immediately.

The minister stressed the "importance of a quiet, balanced and wise approach" to the assessment of the obtaining situation, "a precise and impartial analysis" of the processes underway.

In this connection, the Tajik minister expressed "extreme surprise" at the position formulated by former Mayor of Moscow Gavriil Popov in his statement on the situation in the Afghan-Tajik border. The statement shows that Popov, the present leader of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement, is "fully misinformed".

Russian Security Minister Calls For Tajik Reinforcements

LD2007155493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The reinforcement of the Tajik-Afghan border was discussed on Tuesday [20 July] at a meeting of Tajik leaders with Russian Minister of Security Viktor Barannikov and commander of frontier troops of the Russian Federation Vladimir Shlyakhtin now staying in Tajikistan. Barannikov insists on speedy reinforcement of Russian frontier troops by recruits from Tajikistan so that frontier posts have a mixed composition, ITAR-TASS learned from the public relations centre of the Russian Security Ministry. The Russian side at the same time believes that the shaping of Tajikistan's own frontier guards structures should be sped up.

Barannikov told Tajik leaders that "reliable protection of external borders of the former USSR at the given stage is in keeping with common interests of countries of the Commonwealth and Russia's national interests. He said that the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan's territory (over 200 thousand people) are Russia's concern. "The safety and protection of compatriots should be secured", the minister said.

After the meeting, Barannikov and Shlyakhtin, together with Chairman of Tajikistan's National Security Committee Saidamir Zukhurov and Defence Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov, visited a section of the Moscow frontier troops unit where a conference was held, the public relations centre reported. On the same day, the Russian security minister visited a hospital and talked with soldiers wounded in border clashes.

Denies Russian Troop Build-Up

LD2007191893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent A. Khodzhayev from Tajikistan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border was actively discussed today both in Dushanbe and in Moscow. Russian border troops remain on combat alert. There are more than enough causes for concern about the way the situation may develop.

[Khodzhayev] Provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border continue. In the past three days armed groups of the opposition continued their attempts to break into Tajik territory in sections guarded by the Pyandzh and Moskovskiy border guard detachments. Two groups of attackers were destroyed and several others dispersed with the help of artillery fire supported by the border troops aircraft.

Armed groups of opposition and Afghan mojahedin from the Afghan province of Badakhshan are gathering on the borderline shore opposite Khorog city. This is happening with substantial help from the Afghan authorities—General Abdul Basir and field commander Bashir Abdollah. Opposition militants have fired at a convoy of trucks carrying flour and other foodstuffs for Badakhshan inhabitants at a place called Tovil'-Dara at the foot of the Pamir mountains. The convoy could not proceed any further. As a result of fighting, which lasted for several hours, there are dead and wounded on both sides.

Last night, Russia's Minister of Security Viktor Barannikov arrived in Dushanbe.

[Begin Barannikov recording] I would like to warn the media against doubtful interpretations of the measures which we are taking, on the Russian president's instructions, on the territory of Tajikistan because some of them have already gone so far as to claim that Russia is planning to strike back all the way to Kabul. There can be no talk about any global escalation of our military presence on the territory of Tajikistan. [end recording]

This morning Viktor Barannikov visited the Russian border troops deployed on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Afghanistan Ready for 'Trilateral Peace Talks'

LD2007210393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Government of Afghanistan has informed the foreign ministries of Russia and Tajikistan of its readiness to hold trilateral peace talks to settle all problems and conflicts in the border area. A FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent was told this today by a spokesman of the Afghan Embassy in Moscow. The Afghan spokesman also confirmed that at least 300 people were killed on Sunday during attacks by Russian forces in northern Afghanistan. This claim has been denied by the Russian authorities.

But at a news conference in Moscow today, Bondarenko, head of administration at the Russian security ministry, said that Russian troops fired on Afghan territory. According to him, subunits of the 201st Motorized Infantry Division launched strikes at places where Afghan mojahedin and Tajik rebels congregate, so as to prevent a large-scale offensive.

Tajik, Afghan 'Militants' Launch Attack

LD2107063593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Moskovskiy settlement (Tajikistan) July 21 TASS—Another major clash occurred between Russian border guards and Tajik and Afghan militants who infiltrated into the Central Asian republic from Afghanistan overnight.

Two servicemen of the Russian 201st motorised rifle division were wounded in fighting close to the 10th Russian border post of the Moskovskiy frontier district in Tajikistan.

Border posts number 5, 6 and 11 came under intensive shelling from the territory of Afghanistan.

Commander of the Moskovskiy frontier district Vasiliy Matyuk told TASS that a large-scale offensive on the border from Afghanistan is not excluded in the near future.

He added that major forces of Tajik opposition militants and Afghan mojahedin had been concentrated close to the border. They are armed with armoured hardware, foreign-made weapons and the militants had been trained by military advisers from several Arab countries, in particular, from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

He warned that his troops are not yet ready to resist a large-scale offensive as they had been manned only by two-thirds of the necessary personnel.

Fight for Gorno-Badakhshan Seen 'Inevitable'

PM2007201193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 93 p 1

[Vladimir Berezovskiy report: "Fight for Gorno-Badakhshan Inevitable"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The recent attack on the Russian border troops subunit is only the beginning of a large-scale partisan war declared by the opposition to the government in Dushanbe. More and more information suggests that the Islamists, having secured the support of official circles in Afghanistan, will continue their attacks.

Thus, in the small town of Tavildara a group of gunmen have blocked a convoy of food trucks. The aim is to provoke mass unrest in Gorno-Badakhshan, where even as it is, people are virtually starving. In the ensuing battle eight personnel of an MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] special brigade and eight Islamists were killed.

Provocations continue in the sectors of the Pyandzh and Moscow Border Detachments. Now, however, more effective measures are being taken against the attackers. An attempted incursion by 80 bandits was scotched by artillery fire, and two groups of gunmen were destroyed by aerial bombardments.

A most threatening situation is developing in Gorno-Baradakhshan. Here armed opposition detachments which fled from the valleys in the civil war have entrenched themselves beyond inaccessible passes. According to unofficial information, there are several thousand gunmen in these parts. The only deterrent force is a cossack battalion which, as has become known, has serious problems with the local population on ethnic and religious grounds. Opposite the oblast center of Khorog in the Afghan city of Feyzabad undisguised preparations for an assault are underway, led by Field Commander Bashir Abdollah. All the signs suggest that the main fighting will unfold in this region. The seizure of Gorno-Badakhshan will enable the opposition to occupy a strategically important point and continue the war against the lawful government from its own territory.

According to MVD and National Security Committee information, saboteurs continue to be sent into the republic with the aim of unleashing individual and mass terror. One such bandit formation was destroyed the day before yesterday near Dushanbe.

The Afghan leadership continues to accuse the CIS of acts of aggression. According to the latest information from the Kabul government, 300 civilians were killed in border villages during massive artillery shelling. Ahmad Mas'ud, Afghan charge d'affaires in Britain and cousin of the minister of defense, supports the thesis that the central government is not in control of the north of the country, and at the same time, in the spirit of the Tajik opposition, talks about a puppet government in Dushanbe maintained in power only by Russian bayonets. So far only Kyrgyzstan has stated that it is ready to send a peacekeeping battalion to Tajikistan. Throughout this period the Uzbek press has kept silent about the attack on the Russian border guards. Meanwhile, according to unconfirmed reports, Islamists have infiltrated into Uzbek territory, and saboteurs have blown up a munitions dump near Karshi.

Opposition Leader Sends Letter to Yeltsin 25 May

MK2007120093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Letter by Said Abdullokhi Nuri, chairman of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, to Boris Yeltsin under "Document" rubric: "Letter by a Tajik Opposition Leader to Boris Yeltsin"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] This message was sent from Afghanistan on 25 May. With the complicated situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, it has traveled in roundabout ways and reached Moscow almost two months after, but nonetheless it has not lost its topicality.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

To: Russian Federation President Mr. B.N. Yeltsin

The chief editor of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich,

We are convinced that you, Boris Nikolayevich, are aware of the latest events in Tajikistan. Official reports circulated by the current leadership of Tajikistan about us, i.e. supporters of democracy, are all lies and falsehoods. This leadership has created the so-called People's Front of Tajikistan, the bulk of whose combatants is made up of criminal elements. The fact that this front was led by Sangak Safarov, who had spent 23 years of his life in prison, offers extra proof that the present Tajik leadership is receiving support from criminal elements. Rustam Abdurakhimov, another leader of the People's Front of Tajikistan, the former chairman of the public-political organization Oshkoro in Kulyab oblast, in August 1991 was one of the first to have sent a telegram to Moscow expressing support for the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE]. Today he is a national hero.

It should be noted that it was after the SCSE that confrontation began between democratic forces and supporters of the communist system. The republic's leaders in those August days took up a wait-and-see attitude, which meant support for the SCSE. That provoked strong criticism on the part of members of the democratic bloc. This position infuriated the communist stooges, and they launched an open persecution of free-thinking advocates of democracy, which eventually led to popular discontent. The tragedy came to a head when former republic President Rakhmon Nabiyev openly armed certain criminal elements on Ozodi Square.

Inspired by that, they robbed and physically exterminated tens of thousands of innocent civilians; Kurgan-Tyube oblast has been almost fully destroyed, and the republic's national economy paralyzed. Unfortunately, physical reprisals against innocent people still continue but the authorities do not want to take the requisite measures to stabilize the situation. This has forced more than 100,000 citizens of the republic to cross the border of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to save their lives. Moreover, Russian troops did not prevent thugs from the Tajik People's Front from using aircraft, helicopters, tanks, and other military hardware against their own people.

Please be advised that many members of the present government and the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan are organizers of and accomplices in the fratricidal war in the republic. For example, Abdumachid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet: His name is linked with the organization of the first armed criminal gang in Bokhtarskiy district of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, which marked the start of confrontation between the supporters of democracy and the criminals.

Even Imamali Rakhmanov, the republic's Supreme Soviet chairman himself, was commander of a criminal gang in Dangarinskiy district, Kulyab Oblast. Appointed by Sangak Safarov and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, he became the number one official in the republic.

Yakub Salimov, the republic's minister of internal affairs, in the past was one of the most notorious racketeers in Dushanbe. His "contribution" to the deaths of many innocent people is known to many.

Also included in this list could be the names of Saidarim Zukhurov, chairman of the republic's National Security committee; General Prosecutor Makhmadnazar Salikhov; Agriculture Minister Khabibullo Tabarov; External Economic Relations Minister Izatullo Khayeyev, and many others.

In addition, the incumbent authorities in the republic have banned the activity of all parties and movements except for the Communist Party.

Should a democratic government return to power, the foundation of its policy will be the guarantee to ensure full rights and freedoms to all peoples living today in fear in the present communist Tajikistan.

It needs to be said that the current communist Tajik authorities have launched a massive terror campaign against dissenters, especially against representatives of the intelligentsia, grossly violating laws and human rights. At present hundreds of thousands of innocent people are being subjected to torture in prisons and dungeons. All of them need the support and assistance of the world community.

According to the findings of Amnesty International, all the facts of terror, violence, and lawlessness in Tajikistan have been confirmed, and Amnesty International directly charges the People's Front and the present republican government with what has happened.

This was also the conclusion made by a Russian commission headed by Sergey Kovalev. Therefore we were surprised to learn that you had warmly received the head of Tajikistan and concluded a treaty with him. We believe that you, Boris Nikolayevich, will once again, with all responsibility, review your position with respect to the present communist authorities of Tajikistan. Let this become yet another proof of the fact that the Russian people wish peace, happiness, and prosperity to the Tajik people.

May God bless you!

Respectfully yours,
Said Abdullokhi Nuri, chairman of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan
The Islamic State of Afghanistan, Takhor region
The Center of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Agreement Reached With Afghanistan on Border Stability

LD2007102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat July 20 TASS—The current situation at the Turkmen-Afghan border does not cause any alarm, according to Vladislav Shunevich, first deputy commander of Turkmenistan's border troops.

Commenting on the results of the talks with the head of the northwestern province of Afghanistan, General Mohammad Ismail Khan, Shunevich told ITAR-TASS that the sides have reached agreement on cooperation to maintain stability and order on the border. On the whole, the growing attention to border problems is inspiring hope for creating stronger southern frontiers, especially after the tragic events on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Russian First Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov's recent visit to Ashgabat is one of the manifestations of this attention. He promised to speed up the consideration of questions which have been piling up since the Russian parliament's decision to withdraw Russian border guards from Turkmenistan.

Shunevich stressed that the Turkmen leadership is paying an increasingly growing attention to border problems in the Republic where the status of Russian border troops is backed up by certain political decisions. He referred to the recent talks between Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and Afghan authorities to exemplify his point. Niyazov proposed to declare the Turkmen- Afghan border a border of friendship and partnership, which will help develop relations between the two Republics on the basis of equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Ashgabat Prepares for Caspian Basin Summit

PM2007134993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Turkmenistan Calls for Cooperation in Resolving Caspian Sea Problems"]

[Text] Ashgabat—Consultations with the governments of countries in the Caspian region have begun in the Turkmenistan Cabinet of Ministers to prepare for the upcoming meeting in Ashgabat in September of the heads of these states, who are to discuss the prospects for cooperation in the Caspian Basin, including in drawing up a common program to save the sea and the people.

A directive by President S. Niyazov has allocated additional hundreds of millions of rubles to purchase prefabricated houses and to resettle in a less dangerous zone the residents of Cheleken who have suffered as a result of the rise in the water level in the Caspian Sea and of the Balkanskaya Oblast settlements which have ended up in the flood zone. Housing is now being constructed, multiapartment blocks are going up, and gas pipelines and automatic telephone exchange lines are being laid where, according to hydrogeologists' calculations, the water should not reach. At the same time a contract has been concluded with a St. Petersburg firm to build up with suction dredges a sandy protective strip around Cheleken, which has now been practically cut off from the dry land, so as to save the functioning enterprises and the residential districts in the center of the city.

"All this will hardly help the people of Cheleken," O. Odekov, academician of the Turkmenistan Academy of Sciences, argues. "The Caspian Sea has encroached and will encroach upon its shores, flooding coastal installations, communications, and enterprises. It is probably already time to think about evacuating a number of installations which could end up in the flood zone and ending the construction of new ones whose construction sites are below the danger mark. It is time those same leaders of the Caspian states pooled their efforts to resolve the problems of the sea and of the people near it, without waiting for future disasters...."

Turkmenistan's scientists believe that this is necessary to reduce to a minimum the huge damage that the Caspian Sea has already caused to the regions surrounding it. Last year alone the losses from flooding caused by the incessant rise in the sea level amounted to over 40 billion rubles along the entire coast of the Kazakh section of the Caspian Sea and to just a little less in Turkmenistan, Dagestan, and Iran. The famous Lenkoran Valley is now under threat of being flooded.

"Not one state in the Caspian Basin will be able to cope on its own with the problems and costs connected with the rise in the sea level," V. Maslov, deputy chairman of the Turkmen State Commission for Emergency Situations, believes. "It is necessary to unite and cooperate in implementing a common program to save the coastal regions being flooded by the sea."

As is known, this problem was discussed recently at a meeting of leaders of the states belonging to the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. In September, as agreed at the conference in Istanbul, the members of the ECO and also the leaders of Russia and other states in the Caspian region are to gather in Ashgabat to formulate common decisions on the Caspian.

Uzbekistan

President Defends Path to 'State Capitalism'

MK2007112493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 35, 20 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 19 Jul) p 5

[Arkadiy Dubnov article under "Future" rubric: "Uzbek Reforms Promise To Be "Special." People Asked to Drop Dependence Mentality Engendered by "Empire of Soviets"]

[Excerpt] Uzbekistan is entering a "period of radical changes." This was announced by President Karimov at a recent conference in Tashkent devoted to questions of social protection for the population in conditions of moving to market-based relations.

The word "crisis" as applied to the republic's economic state was heard at the conference for the first time. That, however, did not prevent Islam Karimov from reiterating the correctness of the path chosen by Uzbekistan to move from an administrative and centralized system of distribution to market-based relations. Absolutely all levers controlling the economy shall remain in the state's hands, while the responsibility for social justice, as follows from Karimov's address, shall rest with the trade unions—state controlled as well. Thus, what has been proclaimed is, apparently, a specifically "Uzbek" road to state capitalism. The road to a market system "is going to be gradual—things should not be allowed to drift." Held up as a proof to the republic's inhabitants is the example of France, where "national economic development is based on five-year plans. In America, they have even elaborated plans for 30 years to come."

Inhabitants of the republic, however, are clearly given to understand that, despite the state's promise "to leave nobody in the lurch," it is time for them to drop their free-ride mentality "whose prisoners they became during the empire of the soviets." Only then would the republic be able to "come close to the level of the developed countries, like, say, Germany and Switzerland."

Yet another guidepost pointed at is the "Swedish model." Why? "The prices there are not restrained on the whole, not controlled and are free. The needy are getting aid."

Characteristically, no "Asian" road—"Turkish" (the most favored until recently), "Chinese," or even less "Japanese," figures as an alternative any more.

"Why do we have no unemployment as they do in developed countries?" Islam Karimov asked, only to give his own answer: "To blame are enterprises that spend state credits to maintain a superfluous work force." It was ordered to "get rid of the wrong idea that if part of the people lose their jobs, we would have many beggars." It is perhaps here, unlike in the developed countries, that Uzbekistan's advantage would show—a well-calculated and therefore not dangerous number of unemployed would be determined at the top.

The news of a "new deal" has given rise in Uzbekistan to rumors of an impending confiscatory monetary reform. Despite official denials, people have rushed to deposit their money in the banks, while carpets, soap, and so forth are selling briskly. As a matter of fact, additional supplies of money to the state coffers are very welcome because it is apparently by coincidence that it was announced during the same days that pensions and wages were to be raised 50 percent. The very next day the newspapers were full of reactions from grateful working people who "with a sense of profound satisfaction" welcomed this "evidence of the state's care for the people." [passage omitted]

Government To Free Some Food Prices

LD2007103693 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1104 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The Government of Uzbekistan has decided to implement a step-by-step transfer to free procurement prices for cattle, milk, potatoes, and onions, and to free retail prices for meat, milk, pasta, vegetable oil, sugar, tea, and household soap from 20 July until the end of the year. Until the end of the year the state will continue to subsidize spending on basic food goods of prime importance which are now covered by coupons. Retail prices for bread and flour will still not exceed 20-30 rubles per kg. The government has declared that every price rise will be preceeded by a relative increase in wages, pensions, benefits, and grants, which is the fundamental basis of the state policy of Uzbekistan in carrying out market reforms.

Armenia

'Hard Battles' After Azerbaijanis Stage Offensive

NC2107095393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0852 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert, July 21 (SNARK)—The Karabakh military officials told SNARK this morning Azerbaijani Army made the offensive in the direction of Askeran and the Farukh, Nakhichevanik and Pyrdzhamal villages. The artillery shellings preceded the offensive. The Azerbaijani military aircraft and armoured machines took part in the action.

According to the reports received by the noon, hard battles are going on. Data on losses have already come.

Premier, High-Ranking Officials Visit Karabakh

NC2007192693 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet Babken Ararktsyan and the Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan paid a one-day working visit to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] yesterday.

The Supreme Soviet chairman and the prime minister held political consultations with the Chairman of NKR State Defense Committee Robert Kocharyan and the Acting Chairman of NKR Supreme Soviet Karen Baburyan in connection with the CSCE's initiative launched within the Minsk Conference framework. They also examined a number of problems pertaining to NKR's socio-economic life and economic difficulties.

Babken Ararktsyan and Grant Bagratyan also visited the village of Vaguhas in Mardakertskiy Rayon, the region around Sarsang reservoir, and St. Hovhannes Mkrtich Church in Gandzasar. Taking part in the visit were also the Director of the Affairs of the Armenian Republic Council of Ministers Armen Kachaturyan, the head of the Armenian Republic's State Directorate for Special Projects Leonard Petrosyan, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Zhirair Liparityan, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Fuel Hrayr Hovannesyan, and Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Bagdasaryan.

Government Backs UN Resolution, CSCE Initiative

LD2007212993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations July 20 TASS—Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan being on an official visit to the United States held on Tuesday a press conference at the headquarters of the United Nations. He said: "The position of Armenia on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is clear and consequent from the beginning. This is the conflict between the people of Nagorno-Karabakh who strive for independence and the Azeri Government who refuses to recognise this legal right and apprenhensions connected with the safety of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia has not territorial pretentions towards Azerbaijan. There is no army in Armenia making war in Nagorno-Karabakh or on any other Azeri territory. However, we cannot say that Armenia is rendering humanitarian aid to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and it cannot take a decision which humiliates the Armenian population.

The Armenian Government supports the Security Council Resolution 822 on Nagorno-Karabakh and considers the CSCE initiative as a serious possibility to end war and establish peace in the region. Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh agreed the conditions of this initiative."

Deputy Minister Meets With New Greek Ambassador

NC2007202093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Arman Kirakosyan yesterday received Greece's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Leonidhas Khrisanthopoulos, who arrived in Yerevan to assume his duties.

During the meeting held in a friendly and frank atmosphere, they discussed prospects for the development of Armenian-Greek ties, the preparation of the draft agreement on the principles of bilateral relations, and the creation of necessary conditions for a fully functional Greek Embassy in Yerevan.

The Greek ambassador handed a copy of his credentials to Arman Kirakosyan. Leonidhas Khrisanthopoulos will submit his credentials to the Republic's president in the next few days.

Azerbaijan

Further on Aliyev's Meeting With Kazimirov

NC2007190093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, today received Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ambassador for special tasks and Russia's representative at the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. It has been reported that Aliyev and Kazimirov have known each other for a long time. Aliyev greeted the guest and said: I know Kazimirov as a person who has solved complex problems on various issues. I hope that our cooperation will be productive and we will undertake the work of peace through diplomatic consultations.

Kazimirov said that he is prepared to cooperate to solve the complex problem. He said: Now is not the time for a general exchange of views and mutual accusations. Holding mutual talks is necessary. That is the only way the peace process can start between the two republics in the Transcaucasus.

According to Kazimirov, the instability created by the dispute around Nagorno-Karabakh has spread to other regions. Therefore, removing similar problems in the region is very important.

Geydar Aliyev explained Mario Raffaelli's recent visit in detail. It is common knowledge that the initiatives made by the CSCE Minsk Conference since it was established in March 1992 have failed to yield concrete results. Aliyev stressed that Azerbaijan responded with great patience and [words indistinct]. It was noted that only the two peoples' goodwill can prevent bloodshed in the region. Later, Aliyev and Kazimirov held talks behind closed doors.

In a statement to an AZERTAC correspondent, Vladimir Kazimirov said: What is required at the present time is not an effort to reduce the number of military operations. The shooting has to stop. Russia has been trying during the past few months to prepare the mechanism that will guarantee the prevention of military operations. Obviously, better mechanisms must be planned to prevent military operations.

Vefa Kulizade, state adviser on foreign policy, Valter Shoniya, Russia's ambassador to Azerbaijan, and [name indistinct], Russia's Foreign Ministry adviser, attended the meeting. Vladimir Kazimirov will leave for Moscow today. He will then fly to Rome to participate in the meeting of the nine CSCE members on the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Kazimirov: Russia's Karabakh Stance 'Unchanged'

LD2007164593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku July 20 TASS—Russia's position on Nagorno-Karabakh problem remains unchanged—it continues to call for "immediate de-escalation of armed activities and the finalizing of a mechanism to guarantee their non-resumption in the zone of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the future," according to Russian Ambassador at Large Vladimir Kazimirov, who is the leader of the Russian mission to talks on the peaceful settlement in Nagorno- Karabakh.

Kazimirov told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview after his meeting with the leaders of Azerbaijan in Baku that "in order to settle the conflict, a substantial set of instruments is obviously needed which would make possible the implementation of specific measures".

Kazimirov believes that the mechanisms proposed in a resolution of the United Nations Security Council and in a plan of the nine member-countries of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe "are necessary but not sufficient". They contain no provisions for a practical solution of the problem of withdrawal of the warring parties to a safe distance.

"This is why we are resolutely in favour of using the time remaining before the fulfilment of the plan of the nine to enhance the efficiency of the mechanism of de-escalation and suspension of military activities," Kazimirov said.

Kazimirov noted that his present visit to Baku was somewhat unusual, because it was taking place in conditions of changes in Azerbaijan's political life. He welcomed the statement by the leaders of the republic confirming their readiness to fulfill the decisions made by authoritative international organisations to settle the conflict.

"We understand that there are certain difficulties on the road to the end of combat activities and that not all parties can agree straight away to put a complete end to them. This is why we are now working to suspend military activities for 60 days as the first step. Of course, not to let them resume upon the expiry of this period, but only to prepare conditions for holding the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. All disputed can and should be settled at the negotiating table and not on the battlefield," Kazimirov said.

Further Kazimirov Comment

NC2007205493 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1452 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 20 Jul (AZERTAC)—In a brief interview given to the AZERTAC correspondent, Vladimir Kazimirov, the ambassador for special tasks and head of the Russian mediation team for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict, said: Russia's position on the settlement of the Karabakh problem has not changed. It wants an immediate halt to the spread of the military operations, improvement of the cease-fire mechanism, and the formulation and creation of a mechanism to prevent the resumption of the military operations in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict zone in the future.

According to the Russian diplomat, who arrived in Baku today for talks with the Azerbaijani leadership, it is obvious that carefully considered mechanisms are needed in order to implement concrete measures. He believes that the mechanisms proposed in UN Resolution 822 and by the nine members of CSCE are essential, but not sufficient by any means. For example, the present mechanisms do not indicate how to separate the forces of the warring sides and withdraw them to a safe distance from each other.

Vladimir Kazimirov pointed out that his visit came at a time of certain changes in Azerbaijan's political life, and applauded the readiness of the Republic's leadership to implement decisions adopted by the prestigious international organizations for the settlement of the conflict.

The diplomat said: We are convinced that there are certain difficulties on the path to halting the military operations, and the sides may not agree on the complete cessation of these operations. For that reason, we are now working on such measures that, as a first step, would make it possible to halt the military operations for 60 days—by the way, the operations should not resume soon after the expiry of this term—in order to create conditions for holding the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. All the disputes should be settled not on the battlefield but at the talks.

Armenian Infantry Reported To Violate Border

NC2007175193 Baku AZERTAC in English 1714 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 20 (AZERTAC)—The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan was aggravated. According to the Defence Ministry of the Azerbaijan Republic, infantry troops of the Armenian Armed Forces numbering over 100 persons violated the state frontier of Azerbaijan from the territory of the Kapanskiy area of Armenia, launched an attack against border villages of the Zangelanskiy area and seized the Kyzyldash border position. According to the data of the Defence Ministry, the Azeri National Army repulsed the offensive of the Armenian troops early in the morning.

The Defence Ministry also says that border villages of Mormor and Novoivanovka of the Kedabekskiy area of Azerbaijan came under the fire from the territory of Armenia. According to the military experts in Baku, the aim of the shelling is to provoke the Azeri side to take retaliatory measures against the Armenian positions situated in the zone mainly populated by ethnic Russians.

Armenia Denies Report

LD2107103293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported today that infantry sub-units of the Armenian Armed Forces attacked several border villages of Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy rayon during the night and seized the border post of Kyzyldash. According to the ministry, units of the Azerbaijani National Army had repelled the attack by Armenian sub-units by the morning. The Armenian Defense Ministry denied the reports about an offensive by Armenian sub-units against Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy rayon. According to information received from Stepanakert, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is calm today.

Attempt To Kill Aliyev 15 Jul Reported

NC2007161093 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 17 Jul 93 p 16

[Text] Baku—Geydar Aliyev, who assumed President Abulfaz Elchibey's powers after Elchibey was forced to leave Baku as a result of the incidents in Ganja on 4 June, has said that the Azerbaijan People's Front tried to avenge Elchibey by attempting to kill Aliyev the night before last. Aliyev addressed the opening session of the parliament yesterday. He held the Azerbaijan People's Front responsible for the assassination attempt. He said: "They intended to remove me regardless of what may happen. I am ready to die for my people."

Aliyev declined to give details on the assassination attempt.

Prime Minister Guseynov Interviewed on Coup

WS2007115093 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian No 128, 7 Jul 93 p 8

[Interview with Azerbaijan's new Prime Minister Surat Guseynov by Ricardas Lapaitis, newspaper special correspondent in Baku: "S. Guseynov: 'I Carried Out the Coup Myself'"; date not given]

[Text] The Azeri legislature—Milli Mejlis—confirmed a new prime minister. This post was taken by Colonel Surat Guseynov. I met with nearly the best known person among the Azeris in Ganja, and continued our conversation in Baku.

[Lapaitis] Mr. Surat, people say that you launched a propaganda campaign against the Popular Front among the local population long before the June events in Ganja. They claim that this particular fact forced the government to send troops against you on 4 June.

[Guseynov] This is untrue. The current collapse of the Popular Front is a demand of our times. A. Elchibey's team, which brought even greater suffering to the people, has lost its moral right to lead the country. This does not mean, however, that I planned the coup in advance. If the elders' meeting in April had listened to my specific proposals on how to overcome the political crisis, the current situation in Azerbaijan would not be like this.

Shielding themselves with democracy, Elchibey's supporters tried to impose martial law in the country. I was a big obstacle to them. I was the only real oppositional force because I had the Army. If they had gotten ridden of me, they would have had much difficulty with the rest. Thus, they arranged a fratricidal clash in Ganja that killed 70 of my men.

Azerbaijan's recent history has many blank spots—from the helicopter that was brought down over Nagorno-Karabakh in 1991 to the transfer of the Kilibadzhar region to Armenians. The former leaders should not think that they will flee the country after transferring the hard currency to foreign banks beforehand. They will be returned and punished for the committed crimes.

[Lapaitis] However, recently you were Elchibey's representative in Nagorno-Karabakh. What happened between the two of you? Was it some personal injustice?

[Guseynov] I became interested in military affairs after the shooting of the Mi-8 helicopter over Nagorno-Karabakh and the tragedy of the Khodzha town. On 5 May 1992, the commanders of all units met in Agdam. I was elected the chairman. Units that previously had fought individually expressed their trust in me. Actually, I became the chief commander. With my authority growing, Elchibey summoned me to Baku and proposed that I become his representative. This office was the most thankless, because the representative was accountable for every failure. I wanted to refuse this proposal, but the president said: "You must do this in the name of the people."

[Lapaitis] You were later accused of all failures at the front, weren't you?

[Guseynov] Not only this. You must know that Armenians are transporting arms to Nagorno-Karabakh along the Lachin "corridor." I decided to capture Lachin. There were less than two kilometers left to the town. I had rallied about 5,000 soldiers. I knew that after taking Lachin we would reach Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the war would be over. However, provocations began. Defense Minister Ganiyev came and stated that the president was concerned about a powerful Army under my control. Later, a group of 65 men arrived from the general staff and began an intimidation campaign among the soldiers that we would lose.

I did not understand at first what was happening. Later, in the winter of 1992-1993, the president issued an order to attack under the conditions that were absolutely unsuitable for this. I opposed, but nobody listened to me. We failed to capture Lachin. The units sent by the president to shield us refused to obey my orders. We were attacked from the rear. Azeris were shooting at us. I have a lot of evidence and even some filmed material.

[Lapaitis] I do not understand why the Azeri leaders needed such a course of events.

[Guseynov] This is a political game with the aim of preserving Levon Ter-Petrosyan as Armenia's president. Do you remember how rallies broke out in Yerevan when we were nearing a victory? The people demanded the removal of the president. Elchibey stated openly in Baku that it would be to our advantage if the "democratic forces led by L. Ter-Petrosyan remained in power in Yerevan."

This was followed by a number of "gifts." Armenia received 40 villages in Nagorno-Karabakh and the entire Kilibadzhar region without a war. Elchibey's team was also preparing to transfer Ganja. Then it dawned on me that Elchibey and Ter-Petrosyan were acting according to the same scenario managed from one center.

[Lapaitis] These are very serious accusations. Do you have any proof?

[Guseynov] I have enough proof to bring Elchibey and his supporters to trial.

[Lapaitis] Do you not fear that they may get rid of you as an unnecessary witness?

[Guseynov] There have already been two attempts to take my life. The first time, someone shot at me from a grenade launcher, but the shell exploded in that person's hands. The second time, bombs were dropped on my soldiers from helicopters in January, killing 19 men.

[Lapaitis] It is said that Russians helped to arm you. It is no secret that you maintained contacts with General Shcherbak. Does "Moscow's hand" have anything to do with the events in Azerbaijan?

[Guseynov] The government needed the rumors that Moscow was guiding Surat. This is untrue. I carried out the coup myself because I could no longer watch the government's treason in silence.

[Lapaitis] Who, in your opinion, will become the new president of Azerbaijan?

[Guseynov] We must now unite the nation and rally its forces. The person who will manage to achieve this will become the leader of the state.

[Lapaitis] You have become the prime minister. Was it your demand to the Azeri legislature?

[Guseynov] If I have to command military actions, I must have all powers.

[Lapaitis] How do you intend to resolve the problem of Nagorno- Karabakh?

[Guseynov] We should repeatedly assess the proposals by Armenia and the third countries. However, if the negotiations are a failure, we will have to fight. I do not doubt our victory.

[Lapaitis] Foreign countries did not approve of the coup in Azerbaijan. What do you think of this?

[Guseynov] No foreign state can interfere in Azerbaijan's internal affairs.

[Lapaitis] What could you say about President Abulfaz Elchibey's fate?

[Guseynov] I suppose that the functions of the president's institution must be suspended until the next elections.

Georgia

Defense Minister Discusses Abkhazia With Yeltsin Envoy

LD2007191493 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1540 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] In Sukhumi a meeting has taken place between Giorgi Karkarashvili, defense minister of the Republic of Georgia, and Boris Pastukhov, Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy and deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

Boris Pastukhov said at the meeting that Russia is acting as a mediator and is interested in resolving the Abkhaz conflict as soon as possible through peaceful negotiations. He familiarized the Georgian side with the conflict settlement draft worked out by the Gudauta side.

In the course of the talks, Pastukhov was particularly insistent that the Georgians should sign the proposed agreement, otherwise, according to his statement, Sukhumi will be captured.

In reply to this, the defense minister said that Sukhumi will not fall and that the Georgian Armed Forces will defend it to the end. Concerning Russia's stance, Karkarashvili said that Russia must formulate its policy toward Georgia and should monitor its ground, air, and sea borders with the Georgian State, non-protection of which might be a cause of continuing the war with the Abkhaz separatists; otherwise, Russia will not be able to act as a mediator in this conflict. The policy of supporting the Abkhaz side may turn out to be lethal, first of all, for Russia itself, Karkarashvili concluded.

Moscow Role Viewed

LD2007161393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1352 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Here is news from the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Correspondent Zhurab Dvali from the Georgian IPRINDA news agency will be acquainting us with it.

[Dvali] Last night and this morning there were no substantial alterations in the alignment of forces along the frontline around the Gumista river. Once again there are intense battles for the strategically important heights in the Shroma-Akhalsheni direction. Units of the Gudauta group have mainly concentrated their forces and equipment in the area of Akhalsheni village.

There has been an exchange of hostages between the warring sides at the airport in the town of Sukhumi, and 15-year-old (Mamuka Mamulashvili), who was taken prisoner during the capture of Sukhumi power plant by the Gudauta group, has been brought out of Gudauta to Sukhumi in a military helicopter belonging to the Russian armed forces. In return, the Georgian side handed over (Eduard Dzhindzholi), an 18-year-old fighter from the Novyy Afon battalion.

The Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone is today expecting the arrival of a UN mission comprising eight people, which is to do work in preparation for the arrival of 50 UN observers in accordance with the UN resolution on settlement of the Abkhaz conflict.

Meanwhile, information on the outcome of the meeting in Sukhumi between Georgiy Karkarashvili, minister of defense of the Republic of Georgia, and Boris Pastukhov, personal representative of the Russian president, has, in the view of many observers, strengthened even further the skeptical view of official Moscow as mediator in settling the Georgian-Abkhaz confrontation. As Karkarashvili said, Pastukhov gave to understand in a fairly tough and unambiguous manner that Georgia should not reckon on a rapid end to the war and proposed signing a cease-fire agreement on terms unacceptable to the Georgian side; otherwise, Pastukhov threatened new problems in this region of the republic.

A statement made today in the republic's parliament by deputy Dzhaba Ioseliani, leader of the paramilitary Mkhedrioni formation, saying that if Sukhumi fell he and his people would go over to partisan activity against Russia, and not only on the territory of Georgia or Abkhazia but in Russia itself, too, was something of an echo of this conversation. People can compare me with Dudayev or with Hitler, but I will poison Russia just as it is doing to Georgia, Dzhaba Ioseliani said.

Abkhaz Leader Calls For Russian Pressure on Georgia

LD2007180793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By unidentified correspondent from a news conference given by Abkhaz parliament Chairman V. Ardzinba; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Georgia has rejected the peace plan agreed between Abkhazia and Russia.

[Begin Ardzinba recording] There is the problem of the troop withdrawal, the problem of rebuilding lawful power bodies, and the problem of introducing Russian peacekeeping forces. [end recording]

The Abkhaz leader reminded Russian media representatives about the Russian Government's statement threatening to put pressure on any side which refused to sign the agreement. Today it happens to be Georgia, but Russia is not putting any pressure on it. Ardzinba believes that this illustrates double standards in the policy pursued by Moscow. If in the very near future no real ways to stop the war are found, then...

[Begin Ardzinba recording] We will have no choice but to take over our capital. [end recording]

Says Peace Depends on Georgia

LD2007213393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By correspondent Ruslan Khashiga from Abkhazia, including recording of remarks by Abkhazia Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzhina at news conference—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khashiga] Today, more than ever before, there is a real possibility for a peaceful settlement of the war in

Abkhazia, Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Abkhazia, stated at a news conference.

[Ardzinba] Our territory could be demilitarized in a few days and the main condition for this demilitarization is the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia.

[Khashiga] Replying to a question about Russia's position, Ardzhinba expressed this view:

[Ardzinba] Russia is interested in establishing peace on the territory of Abkhazia, but in the present situation this depends totally on the Georgian side.

[Khashiga] However, on the subject of the further development of events, Parliamentary Chairman Vladimir Ardzinba stated:

[Ardzinba] If we do not find a political solution of the question of the capital of Abkhazia, we will have to take the city.

Calls Shevardnadze's Peace Plan 'Farce'

LD2107094993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi July 21 TASS—Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba called the latest peace initiatives of Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze a "farce".

"No concrete proposals either from Eduard Shevardnadze or from the Georgian side in general were received", the chairman of the Abkhazian parliament told TASS on Wednesday commenting on Shevardnadze's plan on the demilitarisation of the zone of conflict.

"Most evidently, this is another farce aimed to distract the public opinion and to cover the growing (Georgian) military presence in Abkhazia by talks about demilitarisation", he added.

However, Ardzinba said he would welcome Shevardnadze's proposal if it concerns Georgian pullout from Abkhazia.

"The evil is rooted in the dispatch of Georgian troops to the territory of our republic", the chairman of the Abkhazian parliament said.

UN Technical Delegation Begins Work in Tbilisi

LD2007163793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By Georgian News Agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi July 20 TASS—A technical delegation from the United Nations led by former aide to the U.N. Secretary-General George Sherry began work in Tbilisi today.

U.N. experts met personal representative of the head of Georgian state Sandro Kavsadze, who is also chairman of the Committee for Human Rights and Inter-Ethnic Relations. Kavsadze briefed them on the situation in the zone of conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia and the latest social and political developments in the republic.

The United Nations delegation is in Georgia to study the situation in the region, find places to locate 50 U.N. observers and prepare materials for a report to the U.N. secretary-general.

U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said in his earlier report "on the situation in Abkhazia" that U.N. observers would be able to arrive in Georgia only after a cease-fire in the conflict zone.

Sukhumi Residents Appeal to Shevardnadze, Yeltsin

LD2007215393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2045 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By GIA-TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi July 21 TASS—A total of 1,773 inhabitants of Sukhumi addressed a letter to Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin which describes their sufferings inflicted by the repeated bombardments on the part of the Abkhazian troops.

Thousands of apartment houses have been destroyed, 295 people killed (including 20 Abkhazians, 72 Russians, 147 Georgians, 20 Armenians), 881 civilians wounded, the letter reads.

According to the letter, the Gudauta armed unit "terrorizes the whole of Sukhumi. It is doing its utmost to alienate and embitter not only Georgian and Abkhazian nations, but to involve representatives of various nations from all over the caucasus in this dirty affair, which goes beyond any evil."

The authors of the letter demand that all those guilty of unleashing the interethnic conflict be put before an international trial.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Batumi, Discusses Black Sea Issues

LD2007183493 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1540 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and chairman of the parliament of the Republic of Georgia, arrived in the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Adzhariya today.

In an interview given to journalists at Batumi airport, the head of state touched on the issue of making more efficient use of the Black Sea and coordination of measures in this direction. Shevardnadze drew attention to the question of constructing a Euro-Asian highway, on which high hopes are pinned.

A meeting took place at the Council of Ministers today where the issues of development of all kinds of transportation and the prospects of Batumi and Poti sea ports were discussed.

Commenting on Boris Pastukhov's statement on capturing Sukhumi in the event the Georgian side fails to sign the agreement presented by the Gudauta group, Shevardnadze said it is not so easy to capture Sukhumi. Such statements from diplomats are unacceptable, and the more so when negotiations are not yet over.

Meets Local Leaders

LD2107102193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of state and chairman of the Georgian parliament, arrived in Batumi yesterday. He was met at the airport by Aslan Abashidze, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic of Adzhariya; Guram Vashalomidze, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic; and other officials.

In an interview for journalists, Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out:

We think a lot about a more efficient utilization of the Black Sea coast. We were in Poti recently and set ourselves certain tasks there. We are now in Batumi, where many interesting proposals have been made. Some of these are at the project level. We have entered a stage when coordination is necessary. Coordination with Tbilisi is necessary, especially when we talk about the building of artery roads and a bridge between Europe and Asia.

Later, a meeting was held at the Adzhariya Council of Ministers, which was devoted to the development of a transport network in Ajaria and adjacent territories. Among the participants of the meeting were ministers of Georgia and the Autonomous Republic of Adzhariya, heads of agencies, and leading specialists. The meeting discussed the development of the Batumi sea port, railway, air and road transport, as well as other issues.

A keynote speech was delivered at the meeting by Aslan Abashidze, the chairman of the Autonomous Republic of Adzhariya.

The results of the meeting were summed up by Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and chairman of the Georgian parliament.

Meets Possible New Prime Minister

LD2107062893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0520 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Mezentsev from Batumi for "Panorama" program]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili, and almost the whole Georgian Cabinet of Ministers arrived in Batumi yesterday to discuss the problems of the development of the region with Adzhariya's government.

It is interesting that the prime minister himself, Tengiz Sigua, who has all economic matters under his supervision, remained in Tbilisi. In the opinion of local observers, Sigua, like Dzhaba Ioseliani and Tengiz Kitovani, will have to leave the top state post in the very near future.

As is known from well informed sources, Shevardnadze has already offered the prime minister's portfolio to Adzhariya's leader, Aslan Abashidze. He is well-known for his pro-Russian moods. Moreover, Abashidze has put tough conditions under which he will head the Georgian Government. Among them are the approval of his appointment by top echelons of power in Russia, a return of Georgia to the ruble zone, an expansion of the rights and freedoms for the autonomous republics—South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and Adzhariya—and creating very favorable conditions for the Russian army deployed in Georgia.

The talks between Abashidze and Eduard Shevardnadze went on for more than two hours in the new luxurious residence of the chairman of Adzhariya's Supreme Soviet. The meeting was tete-a-tete. After the meeting, both leaders said they were fully satisfied with its results. It seems in Adzhariya that Shevardnadze not only received some homework, so to speak, but also food for thought. Abashidze shared with him some serious information he had at his disposal regarding the situation in Georgia and political moods in Russia and Turkey.

Adzhariya's Council of Ministers held a working conference chaired by Shevardnadze and Abashidze. The ministers discussed the projects for the development of the sea trade port, oil refinery and airport, and other industrial and transport facilities.

On the same day, Shevardnadze and officials who accompanied him on the trip left Batumi by air for Tbilisi.

Ukraine Fighters Arrive in Georgia

LD2007230893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2021 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to the data of the Ukrainian News Agency, a group of fighting men of the paramilitary nationalist organization called Ukrainian People's Self-defense arrived in the Georgian capital from Kiev on 20 July. In an interview to an UNIAN agency reporter, Deputy Commander Korchinskiy stated that in order to avoid blood being shed in Crimea and in the Donbass, it is now necessary to wage war in Abkhazia on the side of Georgia.

The other day Ukraine's Security Service warned that the actions by Ukrainian People's Self-defense aimed at supporting Georgia in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict would be cut short. According to the latest data, there are over 100 fighers from Ukraine in the combat operations area.

Additions Made To Criminal Code on Genocide, Draft Evasion

AU2007154193 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 3

["Republic of Georgia Law on the Introduction of Additions to the Republic of Georgia Criminal Code" issued in Tbilisi on 8 July]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To introduce the following additions to Articles 65 prime one and 81 prime one of the Republic of Georgia Criminal Code that was ratified by the Law of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] of 30 December 1960 (Proceedings of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, 1961, No. 1, p 10):

"Article 65 prime one. Genocide.

Genocide, that is to say an act directed against the complete or partial destruction of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group of persons expressed through the murder of members of such groups, the infliction upon them of serious injury, or deliberately creating conditions of life for them that are aimed at their complete or partial destruction, the forcible reduction of the birthrate, or the forcible transfer of children from one ethnic group to another—

is punishable by imprisonment for a period of 10 to 15 years with confiscation of property or by the death penalty with confiscation of property."

"Article 81 prime one. Failure to Appear Before the Commission for Conscription Call-Up to the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

Failure to appear before the Commission for Conscription Call-Up to the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces, after measures have been taken to impose an administrative penalty for such an action,—

is punishable by imprisonment for a period of one to three years."

2. This law comes into force upon publication.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament head of state
Rusudan Beridze, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament
[Dated] Tbilisi, 8 July 1993

Estonia

Narva, Sillamae Referenda Results Underline Need for Dialogue

PM2007103793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Estonian Prime Minister Sharply Condemned Referendum in Narva and Sillamae"]

[Text] Referenda have been held in two Russian-speaking cities in northeast Estonia—Narva and Sillamae. The city inhabitants answered the same question: Do you want Narva (Sillamae) to have the status of a national-territorial autonomous entity within Estonia?

The referenda were valid in both cities. In Narva 57.4 percent of people with the right to vote came to the polling places, and more than 97 percent of them supported the idea of autonomy. These indicators were somewhat higher in Sillamae: 61 and 98 percent.

"Autonomy is the only peaceful possibility of bringing laws which discriminate against the Russian-speaking population into line with democratic norms," Aleksandr Maksimenko, chairman of Sillamae City Council, explained. "We will seek to amend the two chief normative acts—the decrees on bringing into force the law on citizenship and the law on language. Otherwise our city will forever remain a city of foreigners in Estonia and will not extricate itself from the political, social, and economic crisis."

Let us remind you that IZVESTIYA has written in detail about Sillamae and Narva before. It [as published] is one of the cities known by postal box numbers which grew up since the war. Its residents engaged in processing and enriching rare-earth metals, including uranium. The third generation of the pioneer construction workers is now working at the combine. Estonia was once proud of them. Noncitizens now make up 95 percent of the population. The change in their status and social position has been brought about by legal restructuring in the republic and by its policy of creating a national state. As a result, practically all the residents of Sillamae have been left without political or civil rights. The breaking off of economic links with Russia—the combine has nowhere to obtain raw materials, and Estonia does not need its output—has caused a most acute economic crisis.

The reasons which prompted both Narva and Sillamae to hold a referendum are the same: lack of rights, unemployment, the reluctance of parliament and the government to take the interests and opinion of non-Estonians into account. Suffice it to say that the draft law on aliens, which exacerbated the situation, was not even discussed with representatives of Russophone organizations.

The economic problems of the northeast have not been of very great concern to the government either. Mighty industry, created to satisfy the needs of a vast country, is on the verge of coming to a halt. Attempts by local entrepreneurs to resume links with Russia at a new level do not always meet with support in Tallinn. Thus, the mineral fertilizers plant in Kohtla-Jarve has been standing idle since March—the raw material has become more expensive. But the government has been sitting on the draft of a joint venture with "Lentransgaz" for approximately a year now. If the interests of the suppliers of the raw material—gas—and of the processors had come together, the plant would long since have been producing ammonias and carbamide...

The republic's leadership puts the crisis in Narva and other cities down to the intrigues of former partyocrats who have taken over the city councils. Prime Minister Mart Laar—his statement at the time of the referendum was published by newspapers and carried on radio and television—has accused Narva City Council Chairman Vladimir Chuykin and deputies of deliberately exacerbating the socioeconomic crisis and reducing the economy and banks to bankruptcy. The prime minister resolutely condemned the Narva referendum. The government did not ban it or stop it by force. But the entire state propaganda machine was directed against it. In Narva itself opponents of the poll even resorted to direct pressure and threats. It was no coincidence that on the eve of the referendum the government promised to allocate 100,000 kroons to the Narva Union of Unemployed.

In such a situation, city council deputies and trade union center leaders believe, the fact that 54.7 percent of the adult population came to the polling places is a good indicator of activeness. I went to several places where voting was taking place. It took place everywhere in an organized and calm manner. There were voters and foreign journalists in the polling places—they did not notice a single serious violation. In the opinion of S. Padyukov [name as transliterated], chairman of the U.S. Human Rights Society and a U.S. citizen, the referendum is perfectly legitimate and was carried out in accordance with democratic norms.

The only incident occurred in the settlement of Ust-Narva, whose mayor, Yu. Andreyev, ordered the expulsion "from its territory" of a bus with the electoral commission. Prior to this Andreyev had not allowed a polling place to be organized in a school. True, a few hours later the prefect of police of Kohtla-Jarve District canceled the mayor's order, and the bus returned to the settlement....

The referenda have taken place. What now? In V. Chuykin's opinion, a poll is a good basis for talks on improving laws with parliament and the government. Prime Minister Mart Laar thinks differently. Late Sunday evening ETA disseminated an appeal to the people of Narva by the head of the government. Mart Laar assessed the referendum as a provocation and expressed gratitude to those residents who did not participate in it. The prime minister maintains that there were abuses and falsifications during the poll. "Nonexistent people were included on the lists, and citizens of Russia resident both in Narva and on the territory of Russia participated in the vote," the appeal emphasizes.

Such a harsh document will hardly promote the dialogue which the city councils of Narva and Sillamae hope for. But the experience of the Dniester region and Abkhazia convinces us that there is no alternative to talks. A CSCE expert present in Narva assessed the situation like this: There is still great potential for an open conflict. The sides will be able to avoid it if they begin a serious, respectful dialogue, the expert specified. There really simply is no other way.

'Irregularities' in Narva Poll

WS2007114793 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0711 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From 20 July RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, p 1,3]

[Text] Monday, July 20—"A number of irregularities took place during the opinion poll which does not enable to term it referendum," commission member Nikolay Kulikov said. He explained that several voting slips were issued to single voters and a group of voters even arrived from the Leningrad region. They were allowed to vote although the official deadline had passed. Kulikov also questioned the right of the approximately 11,000 Russian citizens living in Narva to take part in the voting. "I favour the Russians joining in the defence of their interests, but that should be done honestly," Kulikov commented.

The Justice Chancellor Erik-Juhan Truuvali is to appeal to the State Court today to declare the Narva town council resolution concerning the law on aliens null and void. The resolution also declared the holding of the referendum in Narva. Truuvali added that the State Court session will not be held today and that the date of the session is to be agreed upon later.

Narva town council members submitted explanations to the council resolution, after having considered the Justice Chancellor's objections. They denied violating the constitution, stressing that the plebiscite did not require the secession of Narva or violate Estonia's integrity. The town council is to discuss the results of the plebiscite on Thursday [22 July]. Commission member Yuriy Mishin claimed that no irregularities were discovered and that the aim of the delay was to enable anyone to present his objections. No one had objected so far, he added.

The result of the plebiscite should not be ignored, no matter what the juridical opinion would be, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry European section Aleksey Glukhov said. He added that a continued dialogue and the solving of the problems concerning the Russian-speaking population would be an adequate reaction.

Sillamae Results Announced

LD2007141893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Sillamae referendum commission has announced the final results of the referendum held on the national-territorial autonomy question. As is known, all the inhabitants of the town irrespective of citizenship were able to vote. There were 14,770 eligible to vote in the town. Of those, 9,003 persons, or 61 percent, took part in the referendum. The commission said that immediately after the referendum, it was announced that 61.4 percent took part, but actually it was a little less; namely, there were some occurrences when one person voted twice. The creation of a national-territorial autonomy was supported at Sillamae by 8,880 persons, or 98.63 percent. There were 113 voting against, 10 ballot papers were declared invalid.

Tomorrow at 1500 hours, a sitting of the Sillamae town council will begin, at which time the referendum results will be officially confirmed, the Baltic News Service reports.

Moscow Embassy Terms Referenda 'Illegal'

LD2007194093 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The Estonian Embassy in Moscow has distributed a press release according to which the referenda held in Narva and Sillamae is illegal and it cannot have any kind of lawful consequences. [passage omitted]

Laar Downplays Narva Referendum

LD2007212493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Nati Kirotar now details today's sitting of the Estonian government.

[Kirotar] The government today discussed once more the situation that recently arose in Narva, and in connection with that it also discussed future government policy regarding Narva. The government should pay more attention to Narva in the future. Prime Minister Mart Laar:

[Begin Laar recording] Our (?condition) for this is as follows. That, first of all, the government through listening to this very same report arrived at the truth that among the Estonian masses the referendum did not achieve those aims which some [words indistinct] politicians placed on it. [passage largely indistinct; gist—less that 50 percent of Narva inhabitants took part in referendum, and only by falsifications and distortion of election documents was it possible to report a figure above 50 percent; the matter to be dealt with by the State Court within a fortnight; the government naturally pleased with the attitude of the majority of Narva people] [end recording]

[Kirotar] The government also discussed the socioeconomic situation of Narva. [passage indistinct] What will then happen with the forthcoming local elections in Narva? Mart Laar:

[Begin Laar recording] The principal concern of the government [words indistinct] that lawful elections could be peacefully held in Narva [words indistinct] and in order to assist all those processes, the government discussed the matter and found that in several ministries the contacts with Narva have been weak, and it is necessary that these ties and contacts between (?different ministries) and Narva should intensify. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Justice Chancellor Comments

WS2107100993 Tallinn BNS in English 1702 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Tallinn, July 20, BNS—Estonian Justice Chancellor Eerik-Juhan Truuvali asked to the State Court Tuesday [20 July] to annul the Narva City Council's June 28 ruling on the aliens law, the justice chancellor's office told BNS.

The chancellor's application was accompanied by relevant supplements.

As reported earlier, the Narva City Council's ruling called the July 16-17 referendum on the city's regional autonomy within the Republic of Estonia.

According to regulations, the State Court must first examine the application; the date of the hearing will be set after it accepts the application.

The justice chancellor asked the Narva City Council June 30 to revoke its ruling because it contradicts the Estonian Constitution.

Since the Narva authorities neither nullified their decision nor brought it into line with the Constitution within 20 days, the matter now moves to the State Court.

The Constitution makes Estonia a single administrative state. Narva City Council Chairman Vladimir Chuikin has said he will abide by the State Court's decision.

Commission Head: Riigikogu Informed of Israel Arms Purchase

WS2007114593 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0710 GMT 20 Jul 93

[From 19 July PAEVALEHT, p 3]

[Text] Monday, July 19—The Riigikogu defence commission was informed of the arms purchase from Israel several months ago at a closed session, commission chairman Rein Helme told ETA. According to the commission decision, only the chairman was authorized to read the full text of the purchase agreement, he said. "Now as a large part of the weapons has arrived, the Riigikogu can be informed of the details of the deal," Helme added. He complained about the draft law on invalidating the deal, submitted by Toomas Alatalu, describing it as unconstitutional.

Latvia

Prime Minister-Designate Announces Cabinet

LD2007143593 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 20 Jul 93

["Text" of a statement by Prime Minister-Designate Valdis Birkavs to an extraordinary session of the Latvian Saeima in Riga; read by Saeima Secretary Daudis—live]

[Text] Highly esteemed Mr. Chairman of the Saeima: Carrying out the order by the state president of 8 July of this year, first, I am honored to announce to you that I have formed a cabinet of the following composition:

Prime Minister: Valdis Birkavs;
Minister of State Reforms: Maris Gailis, member of the Prime Minister's Council [ministru prezidenta biedrs]
Minister of the Economy: Ojars Kehris, member of the Prime Minister's Council;
Minister of Justice: Egils Levits, member of the Prime Minister's Council;
Minister of Finance: Uldis Osis;
Minister of Foreign Affairs: Georgs Andrejevs;
Minister of Education, Culture, and Science: Janis Vaivads;
Minister of Agriculture: Janis Kinna;
Minister of Internal Affairs: Girts Kristovskis;
Minister of Welfare: Janis Ritenis;
Minister of Transport: Andris Gutmanis;
Minister of Defense: Valdis Pavlovskis;
Minister of the Environment and Regional Development: Girts Lukins;
Minister Without Portfolio: Edvins Inkens.

I am also nominating the following state ministers:

State Minister for Power at the Ministry of the Economy: Andris Kreslins;
State Minister for State Property at the Ministry of Finance: Edmunds Krastins;
State Minister for Budget at the Ministry of Finance: Janis Platais;
State Minister for Foreign Trade and European Community Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Olgerts Pavlovskis;
State Minister for Baltic and Nordic States' Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Gunars Meierovics;
State Minister for Culture at the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science: Raimonds Pauls;
State Minister for Forestry at the Ministry of Agriculture: Kazimirs Slakota;
State Minister for Labor at the Ministry of Welfare: Andris Berzins;
State Minister for Environmental Protection at the Ministry of the Environment and Regional Development: Indulis Encis.

I have also informed the state president about the composition of the cabinet.

With sincere respect,
[Signed] Valdis Birkavs
[Dated] 19 July 1993

Defense Minister on Performance of Ministry

WS1907142993 Riga LETA in English 1150 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Riga, July 19 (LETA)—The groundwork has been laid for establishing Latvian defence forces during the past 18 months, said Latvian Defence Minister Talavs Jundzis, estimating results achieved during one and a half a year since the Defence Ministry of Latvia has been set up.

Speaking of foreign relations, the minister pointed out that there was much achieved, as it was shown by the fact that warships from all countries of the Baltic region had visited Latvia this summer, that military attaches had been accredited to Latvia, and many foreign delegations had visited Latvia recently.

Asked to comment on prospects of increasing efficiency of Latvian defence forces, Talavs Jundzis replied that there would be no urgent need to form a professional army in Latvia in the nearest five years. He added that the borderguards were to be put under command of the Defence Ministry, and the militia - under the control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Talavs Jundzis said it was expected that a delegation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would visit Latvia soon. The ministry had succeeded in establishing close contacts with France, and it was expected that military agreements were to be signed also with Belgium and Luxembourg. The minister said he believed a military alliance between the Baltic states ought to be set up as soon as possible.

Lithuania

Former Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Recall

WS2107064893 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 1 Jul 93 No. 125 p 1

[Interview with Stasys Lozoraitis, former Lithuanian ambassador to the United States, by Aurimas Drizius, newspaper correspondent in the United States: "There Is Really Much Work in Washington"; date not given]

[Text] According to the employees of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, on 26 April, S. Lozoraitis received an invitation from the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry to come to Vilnius for consultations on how to improve the work at the embassy. There was no mention of a possible recall. On the contrary, the letter expressed satisfaction with the embassy's work. Lozoraitis was getting ready to leave for Vilnius when he received another fax informing him of his recall from the office. The fax came on 5 May.

Ambassador Lozoraitis told LIETUVOS AIDAS that he did not want to make any political statements until he fulfilled his functions.

[Drizius] **Have you considered the possibility of returning to Lithuania and settling there?**

[Lozoraitis] Yes, I have. Such a possibility is very realistic. However, I do not yet know when.

[Drizius] **What do you think about the accusations from the Foreign Ministry that the embassy does not provide information.**

[Lozoraitis] This criticism is unnecessary. We maintain everyday contacts with Lithuanian institutions. In my opinion, the economic section accomplishes the largest and best part of the work. The visa section issues 100 visas on average each day. The consular section deals with different documents, passports, and so on. The cultural section organizes exhibitions. It also receives thousands of questions from U.S. universities, colleges, and schools about possible cooperation with Lithuanian educational institutions. My first aide V. Nakas assists me in resolving political issues, preparing communiques, and other things. The embassy's science and technology section acts as an intermediary in cooperating with U.S. universities, and sends expensive university catalogs and books to Lithuania. The general section is concerned with acquiring drugs for Lithuania. One more department sends weekly reports on the embassy's work to the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. Thus, the statement that the embassy does not inform Vilnius is groundless. Thus far, the embassy has been financed by the Lithuanian community in the United States. It has not cost Lithuania a dime.

There is really much work—meetings at the Congress, federal institutions, and the State Department. I was pleasantly surprised when I received kind letters from a number of congressmen and senators at the meeting of U.S. Lithuanians in Detroit two weeks ago. The U.S. State Department is observing the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania through its embassy in Vilnius and other sources. If this withdrawal were suspended, the State Department would inform the Congress, and the U.S. aid for Russia would cease.

Brazauskas Pressured To Toughen Russia Policy

MK2007114093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 3

[Tamara Nikolayeva report: "Search for Compromises Possible, but Concessions on Principle Ruled Out. This Is the Approach of the Lithuanian Authorities to Relations With Russia"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Although President Algirdas Brazauskas keeps saying that there are no differences in principle between Lithuania's former and present policies with regard to Russia, the opposition does not take him at his word, and he has to prove continuity in foreign policy by his deeds. Here are the latest examples. During Pavel Grachev's visit to Lithuania the defense ministers agreed to set up Lithuanian-Russian civilian joint ventures on the basis of Russia's former defense plants. In particular, it was the fate of the Kaunas Aircraft Repair Plant that was under discussion. Since British and French experts advised to do just this, no one seemed to have doubts about the Lithuanian Government's final positive decision. A demarche by the opposition followed, however, and the government raised its hands: No, there will be no joint ventures with Russia on the basis of former military plants.

During that same visit talks were held about Lithuania's purchases of Russian arms. Territorial Protection Minister Audrius Butkiavicius talked about them as if they were a foregone conclusion. Here, again, everything has changed dramatically: No arms will be bought from Russia! Butkiavicius announced this at a press conference, adding diplomatically that a Kalashnikov submachine gun is five times cheaper than its French counterpart.

So, no military contacts with Russia. Furthermore, Russia will have to pay damages in full. In an interview for Radio Free Europe, the Lithuanian president stated categorically that Lithuania would never make too big concessions to Russia for the sake of short-term economic advantages. The damage done to Lithuania and its people must be repaid, and this matter will be one of the key issues in further talks with Russia.

As for the withdrawal of Russian troops, at present Lithuania invariably shares the stance taken by Latvia and Estonia. A letter sent by Baltic state leaders to G-7 heads of state in connection with sanctions imposed by Russia on Estonia points out that the troops cannot be withdrawn on time, because no bilateral agreements on the pullout have yet been concluded through Russia's fault, because Russia has refused to present draft agreements and timetables for the withdrawal. Brazauskas' signature is also affixed to the letter, although troops are being withdrawn from Lithuania according to the schedule signed last year, when a draft political agreement was turned down. Thus, the factor of Baltic political unity is beginning to play a more and more significant role in relations with Russia.

Apprehensions as to Russia's perfidy apply not only to military matters but also to economic ones. At the president's meeting with a state delegation the advisability of signing economic treaties with Russia was discussed. In Brazauskas' view, a free trade agreement with Russia is necessary (he proposed that this agreement be concluded in a letter to Boris Yeltsin. Kaliningrad Oblast is already drafting a similar treaty).

It can be said that in the Baltics Russia has been reaping the fruits of its own revolutionary romanticism, and it can hardly expect any warming in the foreign political climate soon. In any case, so far local politicians are scoring more points by exploiting the confrontation with Russia, and even those who call themselves "pragmatic" resort to "imperophobia" as a safe card in the domestic political struggle. A failure to take these factors into account may create new difficulties and problems in Russia's relations with the newly independent countries. "Talks are a search for compromises, which are possible for either side. This does not mean, however, that we are ready to make concessions on principle," Algirdas Brazauskas stressed once again in his interview for Radio Free Europe.

Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkey

LD2007221193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] A cooperation protocol betweeen the Lithuanian and Turkish trade and industry chambers was signed today. Acccording to this protocol both states are obliged to plan the setting up of joint Lithuanian-Turkish enterprises and mutual investments.

Seimas Chairman on Legislative Session Accomplishments

WS2107101193 Tallinn BNS in English 1702 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Vilnius, July 20, BNS—The Lithuanian Seimas (parliament) adopted 68 laws, 89 resolutions and three statements during the 81 meetings of its second session, which ended last week.

The statistic results were presented by parliament chairman, Ceslovas Jursenas, at a press conference Tuesday [20 July]. Lithuania's lawmakers held a total of 142 meetings, adopted 97 laws, 146 resolutions and 10 statements since their election last fall.

Jursenas singled out the laws on the Constitutional Court, on genocide, on land for diplomatic missions, on foreign currency, on amnesty and on a commission for the investigation of economic crimes.

He also mentioned some important amendments to the laws adopted earlier. He stressed the significance of the amended laws on agrarian reform and on real estate.

The parliament will start its third session Sept. 10. The board of the Seimas, which includes the chairman, two vice chairmen and the parliament chancellor, already started preparation for the next session. The parliament will hear reports from its committees, the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister. The latter will discuss the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania.

The parliament will discuss Lithuania's national security concept at its first plenary sessions in fall. The final coordination of the parliament's future work starts Aug. 20, when the committees resume work.

Neris Germanas, parliament chancellor, said around 200 bills have accumulated already. Some remain from the Lithuanian Supreme Council (previous parliament).

Landsbergis Condemns Controls on Opposition in Mass Media

WS2007130393 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 3 Jul 93 No. 127 p 6

[Article by opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis: "Media Autocracy"; under the "Opposition Leader's Column" rubric]

[Text] In Lithuanian, the term "media autocracy" would mean the authority of the press, radio and television, or the mass media. It would also mean the rule of the journalists' class, if they are not mere buttons pressed by some unseen government or governments.

Europe eventually demonstrated its concern. This was reflected in a well prepared report by the Spanish socialist M. Nunez "On the Ethics of Journalism" that was adopted at the Parliamentary Assembly on 1 July. The report consists of three documents: the resolution, the recommendation, and the explanatory memorandum. The sooner we translate and publish them, the sooner we will begin pondering over these problems. These documents contain not only ethical but also legal and philosophical issues. However, first of all, I expect some awareness or agreement from journalists: Thoughts and remarks on the journalists' ethics do not mean an attack on the press. The second thing: An instance of slander is not an insignificant matter, particularly when slander in Lithuania has become a widespread norm or custom. Certainly, I am not speaking of such insults and trials when someone calls a social democrat a leftist.

M. Nunez's basic statement about **information as the essential human right pertaining to a citizen** will assist us in our post-communist battles against the paternalism of any government with restrictions on this important freedom, and also against the widespread opinion that information and the media are a political weapon. Rumors and gossip that a politically biased or specially hired journalist presents through refined technologies as "opinions" and "information" would be used to blackmail and destroy a collective or individual political opponent as some people's enemy.

Following such a view, this weapon is good (unless any effective moral assessment exists). Since this system of values treats politics as a dirty matter, it is not surprising that a servile eastern journalist often suffers from a lack of decency.

The erroneous view that efficiency is of the utmost importance in anything can be revealed even more easily: **Information and the manner of its presentation** is not a journalist's goal then, but a **measure**, a special effective method. What for? For a splendid result, because this is what this sort of life is like.

Eastern post-communist countries lack a moral rather than a legal code of journalism. If ethics were understood as a feature of journalists' professionalism, things would be better. If mixtures of rumors and opinions with bits of slander were seen not as a smart skill, but as an unprofessional method, serious political publications and tabloids, as well as their consumers, would separate completely.

We know a few things about one of such countries and post-communist societies with neocommunist reviving customs of political information.

The journalists of that country's state television were recently accused by their superiors for broadcasting the opinion of the opposition leader on maybe an insignificant event—the country's admission to the European Council. To the devil with Europe, those officials could say, but why did this opposition member appear on the screen and have even a few minutes more than the minister?

They demanded a written explanation. The social background to all this is the lack of jobs at the state television, while the political one is the public decision by its board: Not to let the opposition have even a minute of uncontrolled and non-manipulated time for informing the citizens. The latter are too tired of all politics. Such is the example of the indicated well-known paternalism—wise leaders and Mother party know people's needs better.

The documents confirmed by the European Council declare absolutely different principles. There is a clear division between news and opinions, rumors and unconfirmed facts. There is also a great understanding of the connection between journalists' rights and obligations, their freedom and responsibility. The proposed Ombudsman's Office for the European mass media would be particularly desirable. It would allow us, the citizens, to seek the revision of damaging issues, maybe even with authorizing relevant publications to refute the erroneous "news" and mixtures. This may form European opinions and assessments of such publications, if their misinformation appears to be permanent. The infiltrated KGB people should be more cautious. Conclusions about unfit journalism would save us from the approaching media autocracy that is by no means useful for real, normal, and democratic information media. Each information medium should care about its good name in a normal and open community. Each society, considering and recalling that **information media are ethically accountable** to it and the citizens (from the European Council resolution), will find the manner to protect itself from media autocracy.

The readers must have understood that this article is based on my speech at the European Council.
[Dated] June 2, 1993, Strasbourg

Homeland Union Discusses Situation, Policy With Newspaper

WS2107065193 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 30 Jun 93 No. 124 p 6

[Article by newspaper correspondent Lina Peceliuniene: "The Homeland Union Has Power for Great Deeds"; under the "Politics" rubric]

[Text] The LIETUVOS AIDAS editorial board invited the founders of the Homeland Union (Conservative Party) to discuss political problems and the first steps of the new party.

The statements that the Homeland Union adheres to socialist principles or that it expresses the interests of a handful of businessmen are erroneous. "The conservatives' aim is to have every person earn high wages, and to let the state redistribute them as little as possible," said G. Vagnorius, chairman of the party's executive board. The meeting was attended by such members of the Homeland Union as M. Laurinkus, A. Stasiskis, and A. Katkus. They shared their joy that plenty of both workers and intellectuals were joining the party. The party is expected to number from 10,000 to 12,000 by the end of the year, and about 80,000-90,000 in the future.

The conservatives understand that old structures cannot reform the state, and they are preparing people for work in government service. The new party does not seek its sole victory in the new elections, but it wants the success of the entire united bloc of democratic forces. According to A. Katkus, each party has its own goals, and it is not so easy to unite before the elections. However, an informal coalition exists at present.

G. Vagnorius noted that it was very important for each party to remain independent. The LDDP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party] is not absolutely independent, and it cannot rule the country properly. It has no plan, and its actions are spontaneous. The chairmen of collective farms are concerned with privatizing the remaining property. If the LDDP does not meet their demands, they will leave it, as did M. Visakavicius. The conservatives' goal is to outdo this old structure (LDDP) both in quality and quantity.

The guests from the Homeland Union and the journalists analyzed the returns of the by-elections in Kaisiadorys. In Vagnorius' opinion, a period of recovering one's senses has already replaced disillusionment. People understand that the LDDP is proposing lies to them. The following two lies are the most popular: 1. Landsbergis and Vagnorius destroyed the economy so much that the LDDP is unable to do anything about it now; 2. Both forces are bad, so some third force is necessary. Since the rightists do not have as much power for propaganda as the leftists, they often simply ignore these lies, or do not devote enough effort to their explanation. The government's indebtedness alone can ruin the economy. However, there were neither domestic nor foreign debts until the Seimas elections. The right forces should bring home to the people that they did not have any actual power then. The same pyramid ruled for two years, but only without its top.

The journalists said that the right forces would enhance their influence if their politicians themselves described and analyzed their mistakes.

A. Katkus believes that it is very important to teach young people business ethics, and to present spiritual values to businessmen.

The members of the Homeland union expressed the wish that LIETUVOS AIDAS would remain an independent newspaper.

Statistics Show Decline in Economic Situation

LD2007173593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius July 20 TASS—The new leadership's optimistic pronouncements concerning the gradual improvement of the economic situation in Lithuania are not borne out by statistics, which stubbornly record a continuing decline.

The statistics department of the republic's government circulated a report on Tuesday which revealed that the economic situation continued to worsen in Lithuania in June. A production slump of 74 per cent was recorded in 47 groups of the most important products. Including 27 per cent less metal-cutting instruments, 91 per cent less mineral fertilizers, 28 per cent less paper etc.

No numerically programmed machine tools, automatic compressors, medicines, school exercise books and window glass were manufactured at all.

True, the republic produced more milk preserves, butter and cement in June than in May, and the rate of inflation declined thanks to government efforts, the statistics department reported.

National Bank To Maintain 'Strict Controls' on Money

WS2107101393 Tallinn BNS in English 1845 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Vilnius, July 20, BNS—The Lithuanian central bank plans to maintain its strict controls on the money mass in Lithuania in spite of a predicted slide in the country's industry, says the bank's head.

As reported, production in June dropped in 35 groups of principal goods out of 47. The amount of products supplied to consumers decreased by 7.2 percent.

The bank does its best to have only as much money in circulation as is necessary, Romualdas Visokavicius, chairman of the central bank, said at a press conference Tuesday [20 July]. "There must be as much money as there are goods."

Visokavicius claims the bank's monetary policy is successful. The rate of inflation is expected to reach only 2-2.5 percent in July, mainly due to the central bank's firm policy, he said.

But, he said, continuing economic downfall carries with it a snowball of local bankruptcies. The bank's chairman said the electronic registration of mutual debts July 23 will reveal those companies on the threshold of collapse.

"It is high time to start (allowing bankruptcies)," he said. A similar point of view is held by the government, he said. But he also spoke with a certain reservation, saying that "if there is a need...this or that enterprise will be sacrificed." Visokavicius added that there are enough reserves to "reanimate" insolvent enterprises.

The chairman said the introduction of the litas was quite successful. Approximately a thirtieth of the Lithuanian Provisional Money remained in circulation by 10 a.m. July 20, but no lines could be seen in front of banks.

Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Visokavicius will soon make a statement on the technical quality of the litas. The bank's head said the document will be based on the results of several examinations.

He also said that experts from the International Monetary Fund came to work for 12-18 months on the transitional Lithuanian economic policy memorandum.